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Catalogue 85F0018XPE

# A Graphical Overview of Crime and the Administration of Criminal Justice in Canada, 1997

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics



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## Note of Appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing cooperation involving Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.





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## Introduction

In 1981, the Chief Statistician and the Federal and Provincial Deputy Ministers with responsibility for justice in Canada began the National Justice Statistics Initiative in response to the long time absence of a comprehensive system of comparable national justice statistics. The purpose of the Initiative is to collect and disseminate justice statistics and information to support the administration of justice in Canada, and to ensure that accurate information regarding the nature and extent of crime and the administration of civil and criminal justice is available to the Canadian public. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) is the administrative arm of the Initiative and a division of Statistics Canada. With guidance from its provincial-federal committees, the CCJS develops and implements statistical surveys, and provides information, products and services to both the partners in the Initiative and the public.

The purpose of this product is to provide a visual statistical overview of crime and the administration of criminal justice in Canada. While more detailed information is available in a variety of CCJS publications focusing on specific surveys or subject matters (see Appendices A and B), this product brings together data from all the CCJS's surveys, and data from two Statistics Canada victimization surveys. To provide national and international context, selected Canadian socio-demographic statistics are included, as well as international crime statistics. Specifically, graphics are presented on the following areas: Canadian socio-demographic characteristics; Canadian police-reported crime statistics (the incident, the accused, the victim); police administration statistics; adult and youth court activity; the correctional population; costs of the criminal justice system; violence against women; Canadians' experiences with crime, and their perceptions and fears of crime; and international crime statistics.

## Survey Descriptions

### Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR survey became operational in 1962. It covers crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies across Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. The survey collects numbers of criminal incidents, and numbers of persons charged. To date, the UCR survey has thus produced a continuous 35-year historical record.

Throughout this report, **the terms "crime" and "crime rate" refer to total police-reported Criminal Code actual incidents, excluding traffic**, unless noted otherwise. It is also important to note that, **for incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted**. All crime rates are based on 100,000 population unless otherwise stated.

### The Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

In 1983, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics began a major revision of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey in order to collect more detailed information on the characteristics of an incident and basic data on the persons involved in an incident, both victims and accused. In 1988, two police agencies began reporting to the "Revised" UCR Survey. By 1997, 179 police agencies, representing about 48% of the national volume of reported crime, were responding to the new survey.

## **Homicide Survey**

The Homicide Survey has collected police-reported data on homicide incidents and characteristics of the victims and accused since 1961. Whenever a homicide becomes known to the police, an officer from the police department in whose jurisdiction it is committed completes a survey questionnaire. This questionnaire remained virtually unchanged from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised to add new data elements as well as to improve some existing ones.

## **Police Administration Survey**

The Police Administration Survey collects information on police personnel and expenditures from all municipal and provincial police forces in Canada, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Personnel data are available by type of personnel (police, special constables, civilians) and gender. Expenditures are available by major financial category. Detailed RCMP expenditures are collected, including the cost-sharing of municipal and provincial policing contracts.

## **Adult Criminal Court Survey**

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) has two components: caseload and case characteristics. The Case Characteristics component of the survey collects detailed information on each appearance of an accused charged with a Criminal Code or Other Federal Statute offence. The survey collects all appearances in provincial courts for 'completed' charges by fiscal year. The Caseload Component of the ACCS is designed to collect aggregate information on charges, persons and appearances on a quarterly basis. As of 1996-97, eight jurisdictions participated in the case characteristics component of the survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon. This results in approximately eighty percent coverage of the provincial and territorial adult criminal court cases. The 140 municipal courts in Quebec do not report to the survey. It is estimated that 20 percent of federal statute charges in Quebec are heard in municipal courts.

## **Youth Court Survey**

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of Criminal Code and other Federal Statute offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 years at the time of the offence. On each charge, data are collected which describe the nature of the offence, the court decision and disposition, and the age and gender of the accused. Data have been available since 1984-85 for all jurisdictions except Ontario and the Northwest Territories. YCS data for Ontario became available in 1991-92. Data for the Northwest Territories are not available for fiscal years 1986-87 through 1988-89.

## **Adult Corrections Survey**

The Adult Corrections Survey (ACS) collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics data for custodial and non-custodial correctional services at both the federal and provincial/territorial levels. As well, the survey gathers information on resources, expenditures and personnel. Descriptive data on organizational structure and service delivery are also collected. The ACS became operational in 1979-80 and collects data from all jurisdictions.



## **Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adult and Young Offenders**

The Key Indicator Report (KIR) provides data on "average daily institutional counts" for all provincial, territorial and federal facilities across Canada. Key indicator data on adults were first gathered for the fiscal year 1981-82 and data on youths for the fiscal year 1985-86. Information is supplied to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics by the ten provinces, two territories and Correctional Services Canada.

## **The Violence Against Women Survey**

In 1993, Statistics Canada conducted a national survey on male violence against women on behalf of Health Canada. A random sample of approximately 12,300 women 18 years of age and older residing across the ten provinces were interviewed in depth by telephone about their experiences of physical and sexual violence since the age of 16. Measures of violence were confined to Criminal Code definitions of physical and sexual assault. Information was also collected about the respondents' perceptions of personal safety. Random selection helps ensure that the women who responded are statistically representative of all Canadian women and that the results of the survey can be generalized to Canada's adult female population at large.

## **The General Social Survey**

In 1988, a survey on personal risk related to criminal victimization was initiated as part of Statistics Canada's General Social Survey program. The survey collected data on personal risk, examining the prevalence and social and demographic distribution of eight specific types of criminal victimization experiences. Respondents were asked about their experiences with crime during 1987 and all measures of victimization were restricted to Criminal Code definitions. The survey also examined details surrounding the incident, Canadians' levels of fear, and their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. This survey was replicated in 1993. Two main differences exist between the 1993 and 1988 surveys. First, the 1993 survey asked respondents about their experiences with crime during the twelve months prior to the survey rather than during the previous calendar year. Second, the definition of sexual assault was broadened in the 1993 survey to better capture these incidents as defined by the Criminal Code: while the 1988 survey asked only about experiences of "rape", the 1993 survey asked about forced sexual activity and unwanted sexual touching. Both surveys conducted telephone interviews with a random sample of approximately 10,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older residing in households across the ten provinces.

## **International Crime Victimization Survey**

In 1996, the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) was conducted for a third time. Canada was one of more than 30 participating countries. The survey provides information on the incidence of victimization around the world. In 1996, a random sample of persons aged 16 years and older were asked for detailed information on 11 offences (p. 108), including when, where and how often offences occurred over the previous 5 years; whether offences were reported to the police; and whether victimization experiences were considered serious. They were also asked for their opinions on public safety, policing and sentencing. In most industrialized countries, respondents were interviewed by phone. In other countries, where telephone ownership is not widespread, face-to-face interviews were conducted. Usually, 1,000 to 2,000 persons were interviewed per country.

The ICVS provides a unique opportunity to make international comparisons regarding experiences of crime and public opinion of justice issues.





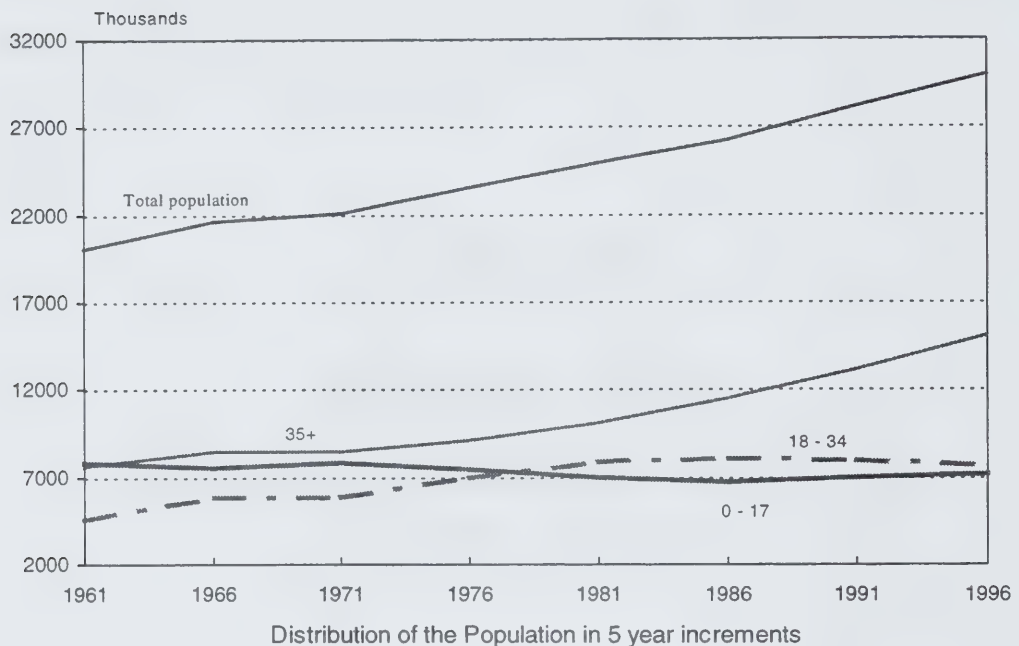


## **SECTION 1:**

# **CANADIAN SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTS**

Figure 1.1

## Changes in Canada's Population by Age Grouping



Source: Canada Census, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Population Estimates and Projections, Census and Intercensal Studies (catalogues 91-002 and 91-512).

- Since Confederation, Canada's population has steadily increased: in 1996, the Census of Population counted 29.9 million people in Canada while there were only 18.2 million counted in 1961.
- Although Canada's population has grown, the rate of growth has decreased since the mid-1950's. This downward trend has only recently reversed with a 7% growth in population between 1986 and 1991. The growth rate declined once again between 1991 and 1996 by 6%.



Figure 1.2

## Unemployment Rate\*, Selected Years



\* Annual averages of persons aged 15 and over. The unemployment rate is an estimate of the percentage of the labour force not employed and seeking work. The measure does not include those who report that they would like work, but who have stopped searching because they believe no work is available.

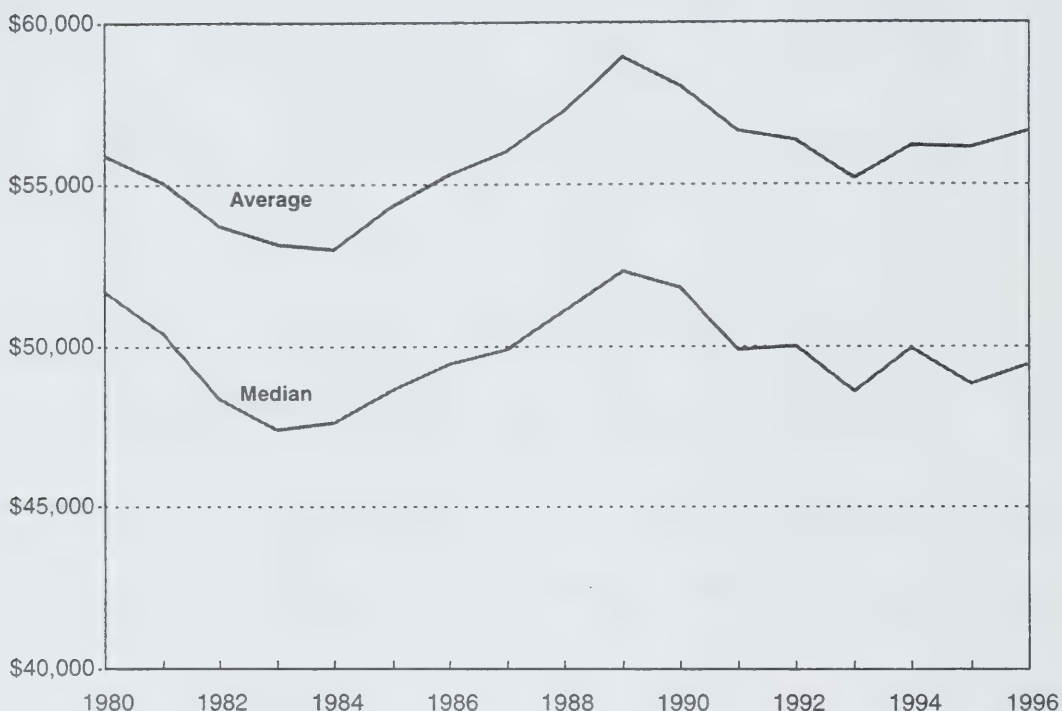
Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Labour Force Annual Averages (catalogue 71-220).

- The recession that began in 1990 greatly affected the unemployment rate in Canada which reached a nine-year high (the same as the 1984 rate) of 11.3% in 1992. After increasing slightly from 1995 to 1996, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.5% in 1997. Overall, the unemployment rate for men and women was the same (9.2%) in 1997.
- The recession affected employment in almost every age group and profession. Between 1990 and 1992, the number of employed Canadians dropped by 323,000. In the past 5 years, this figure has increased by 1,095,000.
- Younger Canadians, particularly those with limited education, were especially affected by the recession. The unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 years rose from 11.2% in 1989 to 17.8% in 1992. By 1995, the unemployment rate for this age category had decreased to a five-year low of 15.6%, only to increase to 16.1% in 1996 and 16.7% in 1997. In 1997, the unemployment rate of those 15 to 24 years was higher among men (17.5%) than women (15.7%).

Figure 1.3

## Average and Median\* Family Income



Average and Median Family Income in Constant 1996 Dollars\*\*

\* Median income refers to the middle value when incomes are ranged in order of magnitude.

\*\* Constant dollars are dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base which adjusts for inflation making the yearly amounts directly comparable.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finance, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Income Distributions by Size in Canada 1996 (catalogue no.13-207).

- The average family income before taxes in 1996 was \$56,629, which is 1% higher than the 1995 amount. Despite this increase over previous years, the average family income remains lower in 1996 than before the beginning of the recession in 1990.
- The 1996 average family income was 3.9% lower than the 1989 peak of \$58,910 (in 1996 constant dollars).



Figure 1.4

## Incidence of Low-Income\* in Canada



\* Percentage of families and unattached individuals with incomes below the "low-income cut-offs". Cut-offs are selected on the basis that unattached individuals and families with incomes below these limits spend, on average, 52.6% or more of their income on food, shelter and clothing. This indicator of low-income is not intended as a measure of poverty.

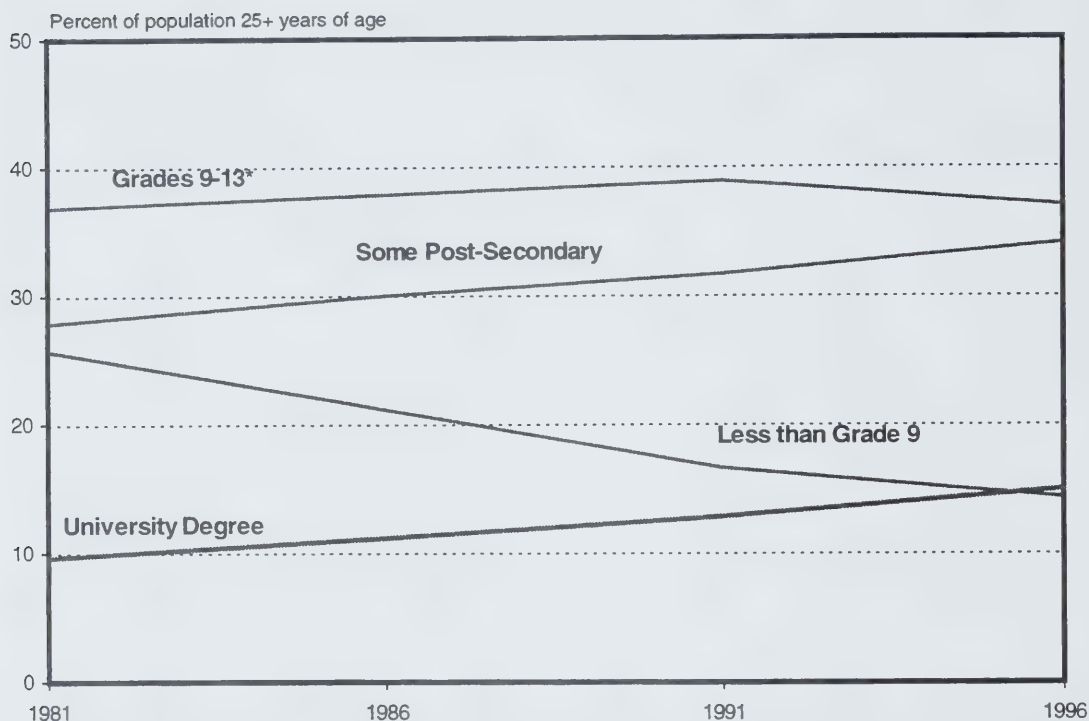
Source: Survey of Consumer Finance, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Income Distribution by Size in Canada 1996 (catalogue no.13-207).

- In 1996, there were an estimated 5.3 million Canadians in low-income situations, an increase of 89,000 from 1995. With the exception of a reduction in 1994, low-income rates have been rising since 1989.
- For families, the rate of low-income in 1996 was 14.5%, an increase from 14.2% in 1995 and 11.1% in 1989. Female lone-parent families had the highest rate of low-income in 1996 (60.8%).
- 21% of children under 18 years of age (or 1.5 million young people) were living in low-income situations in 1996. The same as in 1995 and an increase from 15.3% in 1989.

Figure 1.5

## Population 25 Years and Over by Highest Level of Schooling



\* Grades 9-13 includes those who have attained a secondary school diploma.  
Source: 1971-1996 Censuses, Statistics Canada.

- More Canadians are achieving higher levels of education than they did fifteen years ago. The proportion of Canadians (aged 25 years and older) who have less than a grade 9 education has fallen by almost 50% from 1981 to 1996.
- 51% of the population (25+) in 1996 had a secondary school diploma or less. Still the proportion who received some sort of post-secondary education (including university degrees) increased from 38% in 1981 to 49% in 1996.





## **SECTION 2:**

# **POLICE-REPORTED CRIME STATISTICS**





**SECTION 2A:**

# **CRIMINAL INCIDENTS**



Figure 2.1

## Selected Changes in Justice Legislation

### 1976 - Capital Punishment Abolished

In 1976, capital punishment was abolished and replaced with a mandatory life sentence for all those offences for which death sentences existed. The amendment also reclassified murder, from capital and non-capital murder to first and second-degree murder.

### 1978 – Firearm Legislation Enacted

In 1978, gun control legislation came into effect in Canada. This legislation included the imposition of stricter controls on the issuance of registration certificates which are necessary to acquire restricted weapons such as handguns, the creation of new types of firearm prohibition orders, the creation of new criminal offences in relation to firearm use, and the provision for more severe penalties for the criminal use of firearms.

### 1983 – Bill C-127 Amended Assault Provisions

In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the physical and sexual assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels: level 1 (minor assault/sexual assault), level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm), and level 3 (aggravated assault/sexual assault).

### 1984 – Young Offenders Act Enacted

The Young Offenders Act (YOA) came into effect in 1984, replacing the Juvenile Delinquents Act. At this time, 12 became the minimum age requirement for criminal responsibility under the YOA. However, it was not until 1985 that the maximum age of 17 (up to the 18th birthday) was established in all provinces and territories.

### 1985 – Bill C-49 Expanded Definition of Prostitution

#### Bill C-18 Imposes Stringent Sentences for Impaired Driving

- Bill C-49 expanded the definition of soliciting to include the act of stopping or attempting to stop a person to communicate for the purpose of engaging in prostitution. This amendment resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of prostitution related incidents after 1985.

- Bill C-18 imposed more stringent sentences for drinking and driving. Despite the severity of penalties, impaired driving offences are highly sensitive to changes in police enforcement practices.

### 1988 – Bill C-15 Child Sexual Abuse Amendments

In 1988, Bill C-15 introduced child abuse amendments to the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act. The Bill created three new offences relating to the sexual abuse of children: sexual interference, sexual exploitation, and invitation to sexual touching. It also changed rules of evidence and procedure with respect to sexual offences and the testimony of young people under the age of 18.

### 1991 – Bill C-17 Firearms Legislation

In 1991 Bill C-17 was passed which served to control access to firearms, control the availability and accessibility of specific firearms and deter offenders from using firearms in crimes.

### 1993 – Bill C-126 Criminal Harassment Legislation

On August 1, 1993, Canada's first criminal harassment legislation was enacted. The legislation was in response to a number of highly publicized cases in Canada where women had been killed by their estranged partners. The aim of the legislation is to try and control this type of behaviour and respond to it before it results in serious harm.

### 1995 – Bill C-68 Firearms Act

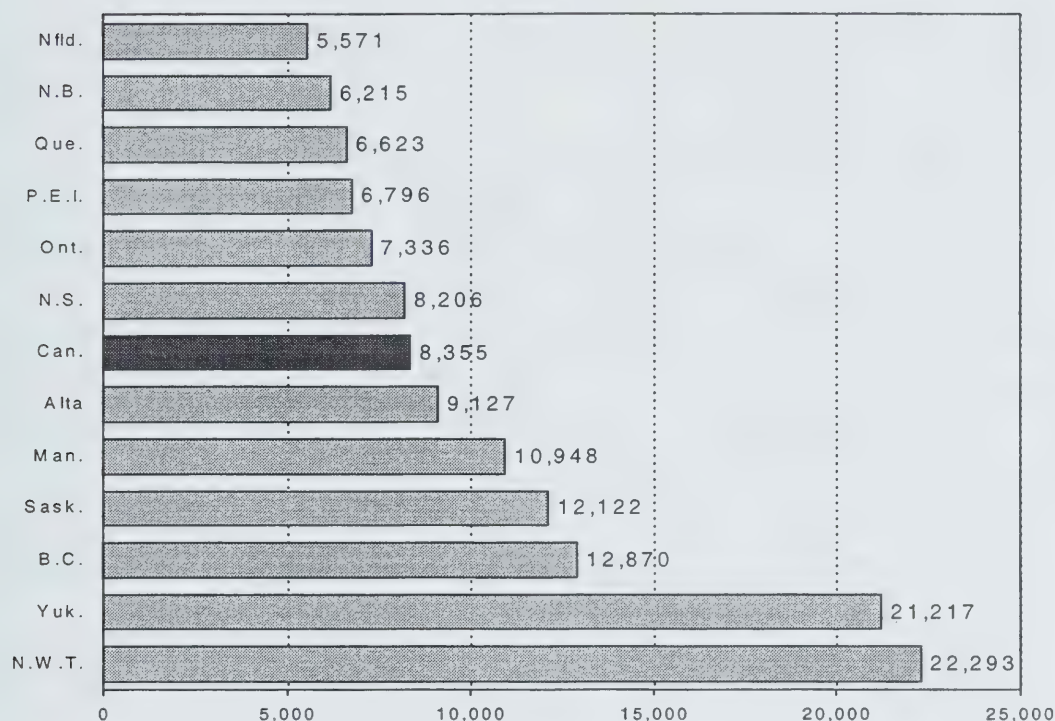
In December 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created a new Firearms Act and amended the Criminal Code. As part of the new legislation, firearm owners will be required to become licensed and to register all of their firearms over the next few years. In addition, new offences related to gun smuggling and trafficking, as well as the prohibition of a number of different types of handguns have been created. Furthermore, mandatory penalties for those who use firearms in the commission of an offence have been implemented.

### 1996 – Bill C-41 Sentencing Reform

In 1996, Bill C-41 was proclaimed into law. The Bill addresses the problem of sentencing disparity and over-reliance on incarceration in Canada. The sentencing reforms are designed to enhance protection of the public, assist victims of crime, instill greater responsibility in offenders and support the principles of rehabilitation, restitution, and deterrence.

Figure 2.2

## Crime Rate\* per 100,000 Population, Canada, 1997



\* The term "crime rate" refers to total police-reported Criminal Code "actual" incidents, excluding traffic crime.

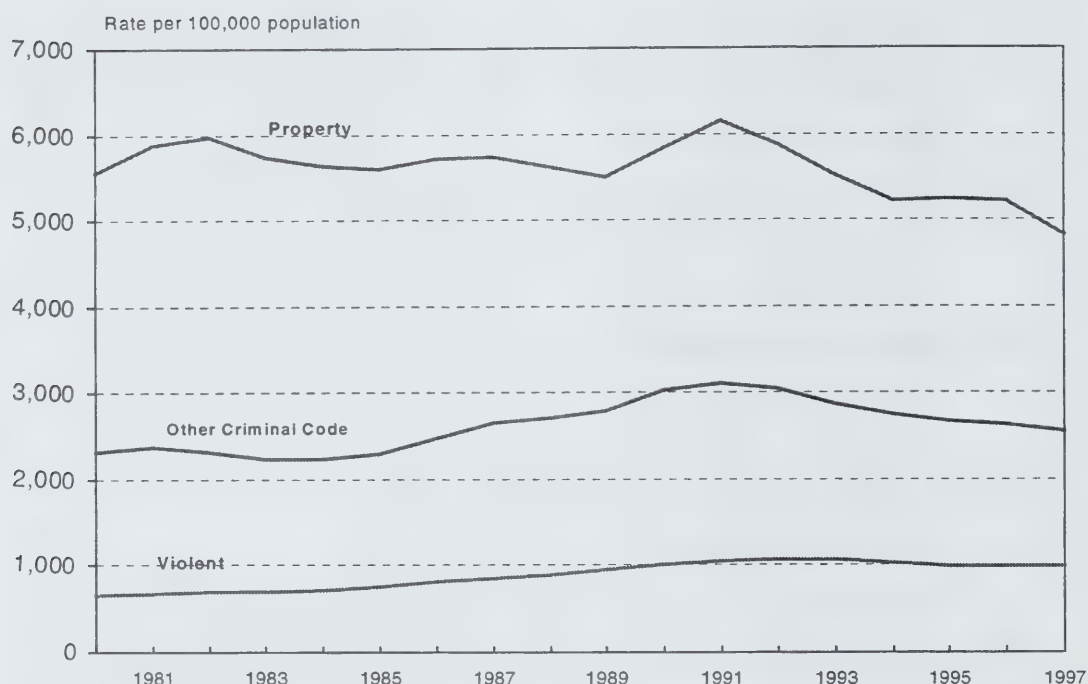
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997".

- Provincial crime rates in 1997 ranged from a low of 5,571 Criminal Code incidents per 100,000 population in Newfoundland to a rate of 12,870 in British Columbia.
- The police-reported crime rate in Canada decreased for the sixth year in a row, falling 5%. This has resulted in the lowest rate since 1980.
- Historically, crime rates in the Atlantic provinces have generally been lower than the Western provinces and the Central provinces. The Yukon and Northwest Territories, with low populations, have historically shown greater crime rates than the provinces.

Figure 2.3

# Criminal Code Incidents\*, Canada, 1980 to 1997



\* Excludes Criminal Code traffic incidents.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, the police-reported crime rate for Criminal Code offences decreased by 5%.
- The 1997 violent crime rate declined by 1.1%, the fifth straight annual decrease, following 15 years of increase.
- Violent crime comprised 11% of total Criminal Code incidents. Assault level 1 (minor assault) incidents accounted for 6 in 10 of all violent crime incidents.
- The 1997 property crime rate fell 8% from the previous year, continuing the general downward trend since 1991.
- In 1997, property crimes represented 58% of Criminal Code incidents, 66% of which were thefts and over one-quarter (25%) of which were incidents of breaking and entering.
- The rate of "other" Criminal Code incidents (e.g., mischief, prostitution, gaming and betting, arson, kidnapping etc.) continued to drop in 1997 (down 3%) marking the fifth consecutive annual decline. Approximately one-half of "other" incidents were mischief offences (property damage).



Figure 2.4

## Homicide Rate, Canada, 1961-1997



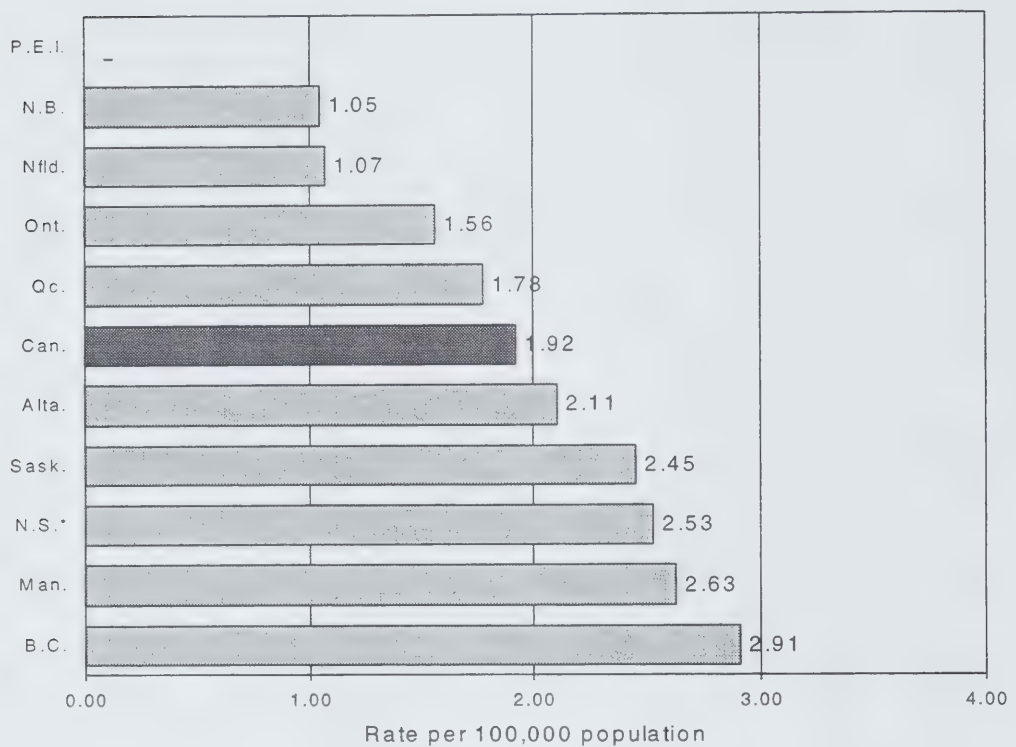
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada - 1997."

- In 1997, there were 581 homicide offences reported in Canada, a decrease of 54 homicides (-9%) from 1996. The homicide rate has generally been declining since the mid-1970's and is at the lowest point since 1969.
- Since 1961, there have been two distinct trends. Between 1961 and 1975, the homicide rate increased steadily from 1.25 per 100,000 population to a peak of 3.02, an increase of 142%. From 1975 to 1997, despite yearly fluctuations, the homicide rate has gradually declined from 3.02 per 100,000 to 1.92, a decrease of 36%.
- Homicides continue to account for less than 1% of all violent crimes reported by police.
- The U.S. homicide rate (6.70) has historically been three to four times higher than that of Canada; however, the U.S. rate has also been recently declining. Canada's homicide rate continues to be higher than many European countries.

Figure 2.5

## Homicide Rate, Canada and the Provinces, 1997



\* One incident with five victims occurred in 1981 and was reported as a homicide in 1997.

- Nil or zero

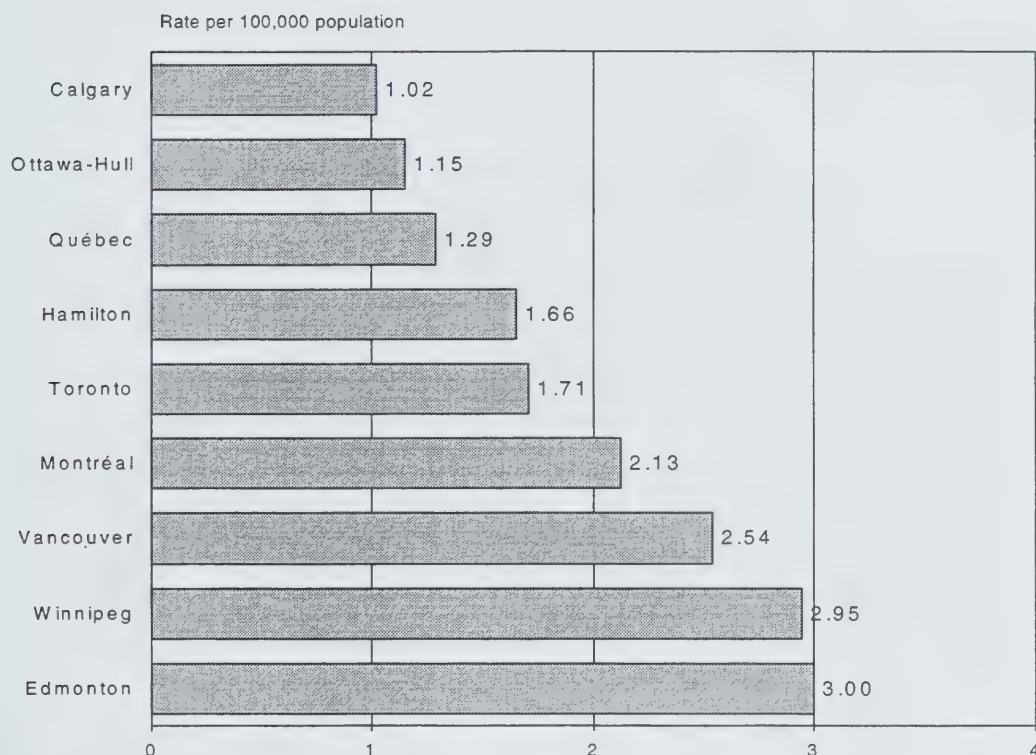
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, including data on the territories, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada - 1997."

- In 1997, British Columbia recorded the highest provincial homicide rate per 100,000 population, followed by Manitoba.
- Every province except Nova Scotia and Alberta saw decreases from 1996.
- Following the historical trend, 1997 provincial homicide rates were generally higher in the west than in the east.

Figure 2.6

## Homicide Rate by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)\*, 500,000+ Population, 1997



\* An urbanized core with at least 500,000 population.

Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

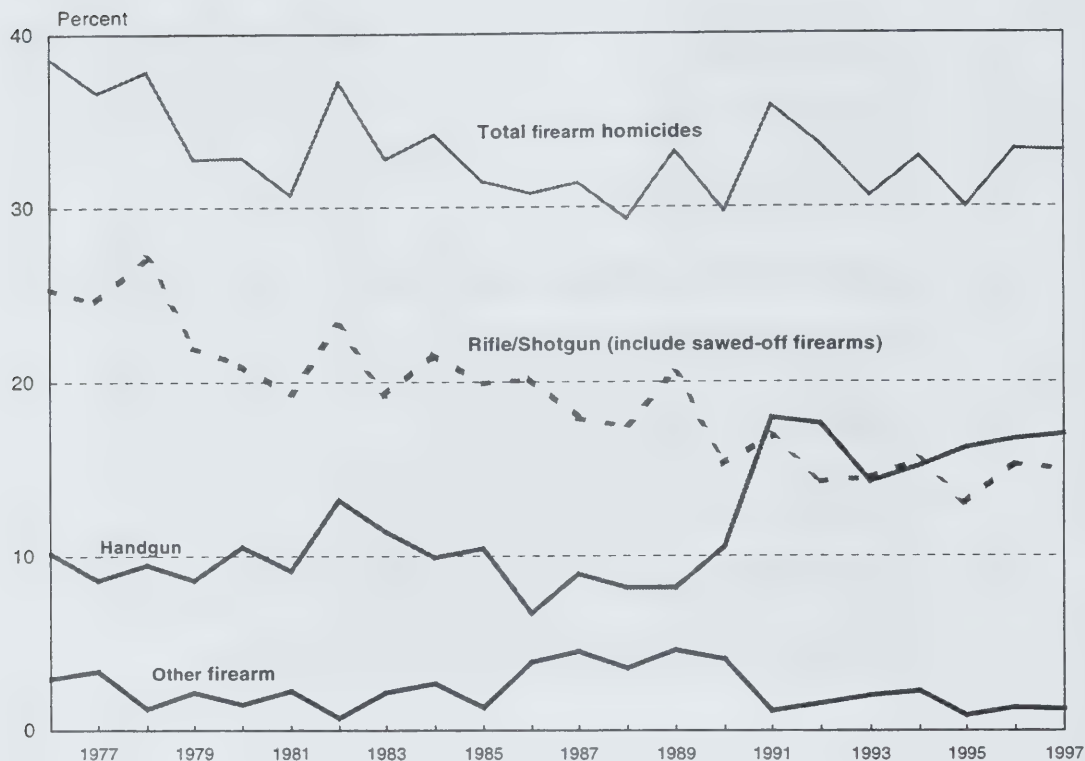
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada - 1997."

- Among the nine CMA's with populations of 500,000 or more, Edmonton reported the highest homicide rate (3.00 per 100,000 population), followed by Winnipeg (2.95). The lowest rates were reported for Calgary (1.02) and Ottawa-Hull (1.15).
- The greatest decrease in the rate of homicides from 1996 to 1997 appeared in Winnipeg. The Winnipeg CMA rate is down from 4.14 per 100,000 population in 1996 to 2.95 in 1997. This decrease for Winnipeg follows a large increase in 1996, when it recorded 28 homicides, 12 more than in 1995.
- Historically, the average rate of homicide has been higher in Edmonton, Winnipeg, and Vancouver than in other census metropolitan areas with populations of 500,000 or more.



Figure 2.7

### Firearm Homicides as a Proportion of all Homicides by Type of Firearm, Canada, 1976 to 1997

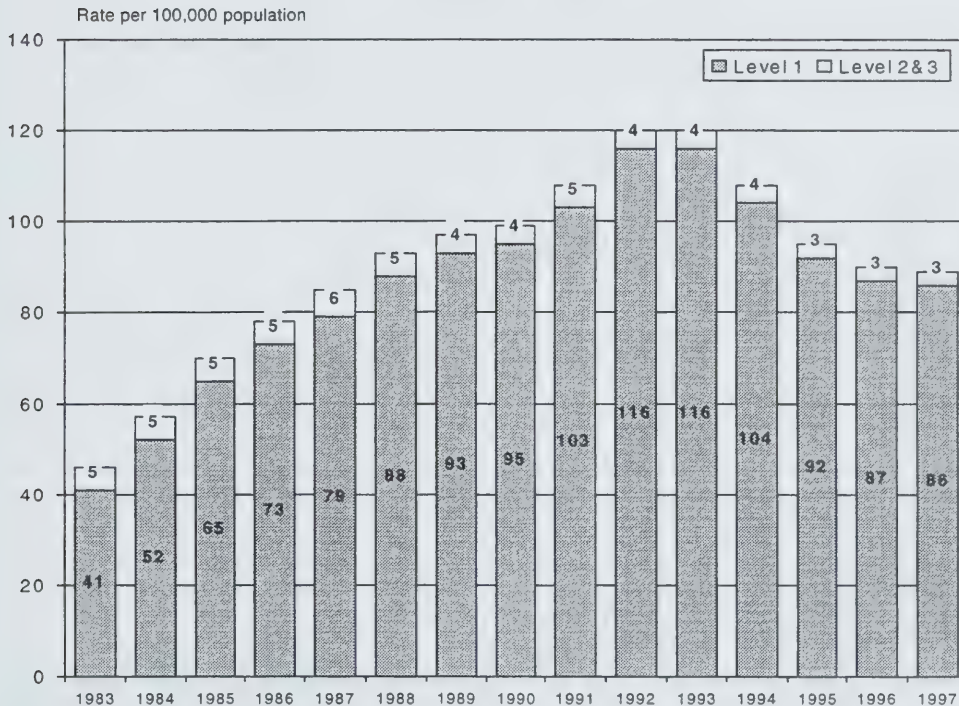


Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada - 1997."

- In 1997, shootings accounted for 33% of homicides. That year, 99 (17%) homicides were committed with a handgun, 87 (15%) with a rifle/shotgun (includes sawed-off firearms) and 7 (1%) with other firearms.
- Between 1976 and 1990, the annual proportion of homicides committed with handguns was roughly one in ten. Since 1991, this annual proportion has increased to approximately one in six.
- Despite an increase in 1997, the use of rifles/shotguns has generally been decreasing, from 25% in 1976 to 20% in 1989, to the present level of 15%. Prior to 1991, these weapons accounted for the majority of firearm homicides. However since then, the number of handgun homicides has generally exceeded the number of rifle/shotgun homicides.

Figure 2.8

## Sexual Assault Incidents\*, Canada, 1983 to 1997



\* Those incidents which were reported to the police.

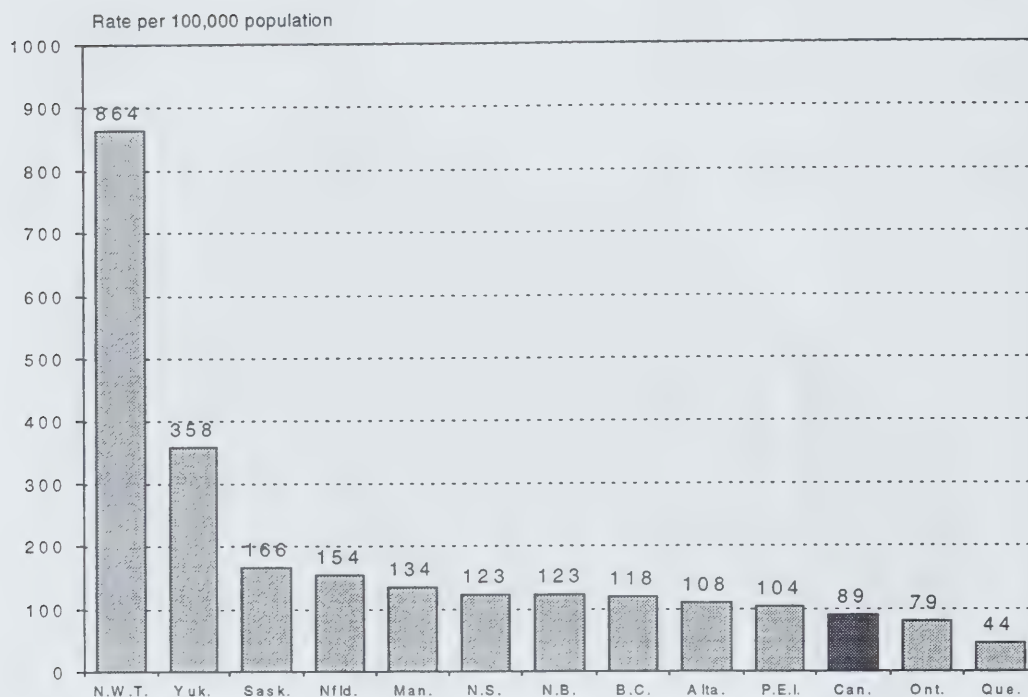
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the sexual assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels of sexual assault: level 1 (minor sexual assault); level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm); and level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).
- In 1997, police recorded 27,063 incidents of sexual assault which accounted for almost 1 in 10 violent crimes that year. This number converts to a rate of 89 reported sexual assaults per 100,000 population. The average annual increase in the rate between 1983 and 1992 was 11%.
- The vast majority of sexual assault incidents in 1997 were level 1 sexual assaults (26,186 accounting for 97%).

Figure 2.9

### Sexual Assault Incidents\*, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997



\* Those incidents which were reported to the police.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

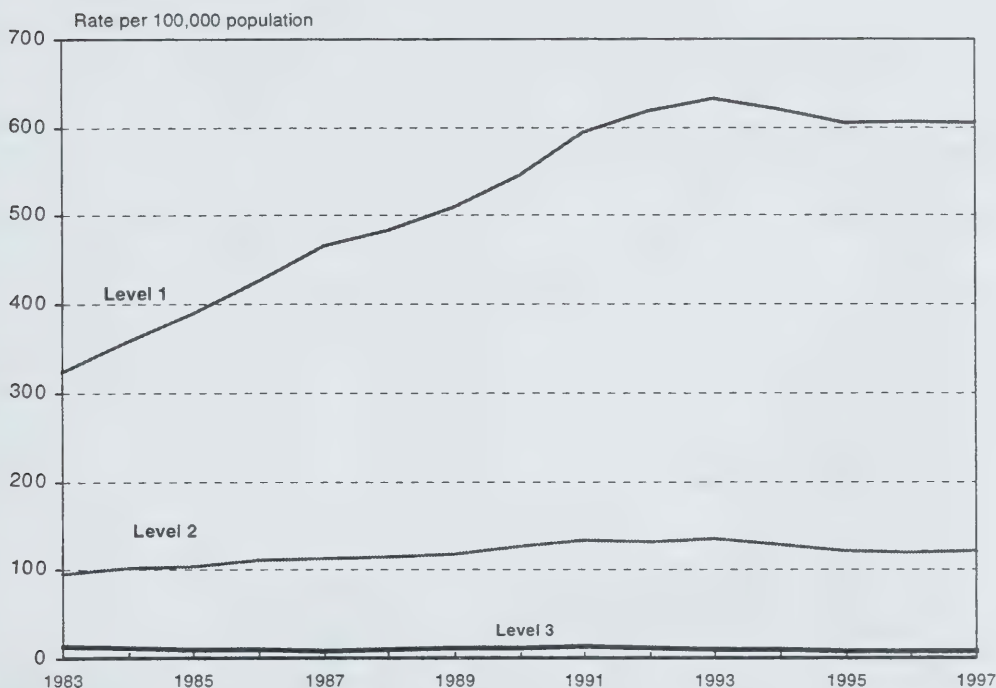
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No. 11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the sexual assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels of sexual assault: level 1 (minor sexual assault), level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm), and level 3 (aggravated sexual assault).
- In 1997, Saskatchewan reported the highest provincial rate of sexual assault per 100,000 population. Consistent with the historical trend, Quebec reported the lowest rate. Quebec's tendency to report lower rates of sexual assault is also noted in victimization surveys.
- The 1997 rate for Canada of 89 sexual assaults per 100,000 population stayed relatively consistent with the 1996 rate.



Figure 2.10

## Non-Sexual Assault Incidents, Canada, 1983 to 1997

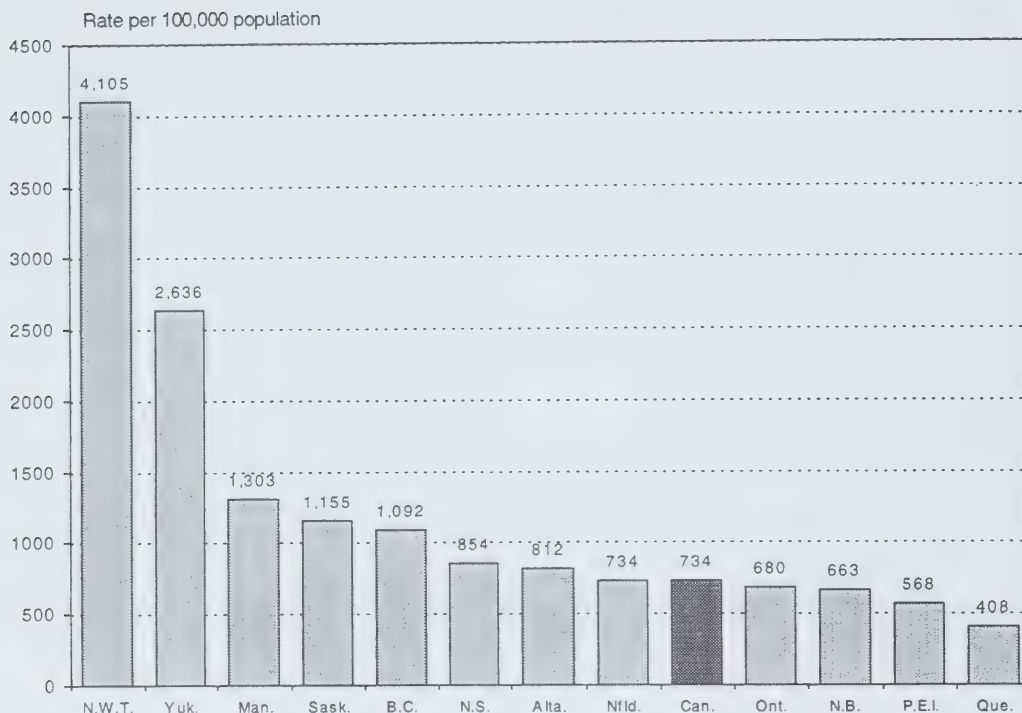


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the non-sexual assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels of assault: level 1 (minor assault); level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm); and level 3 (aggravated assault).
- In 1997, the police recorded 182,946 incidents of assault level 1 (minor assault) which accounted for 6 in 10 reported violent incidents that year.
- In 1997, the rate of level 1 assault incidents (604 per 100,000 population) stayed constant for the second consecutive year. Earlier in the decade, increases in reported minor assault incidents strongly influenced the overall increases in violent crime.
- In 1997, the rate of assault level 2 was 121 per 100,000 population. The rate for this offence peaked in 1993, and has been decreasing ever since.
- In 1997, the rate of assault level 3 (assault resulting in serious physical injury to the victim) was 9 per 100,000 population. Despite some minor fluctuation, this rate is approximately the same as a decade ago.

Figure 2.11

### Non-Sexual Assault Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997

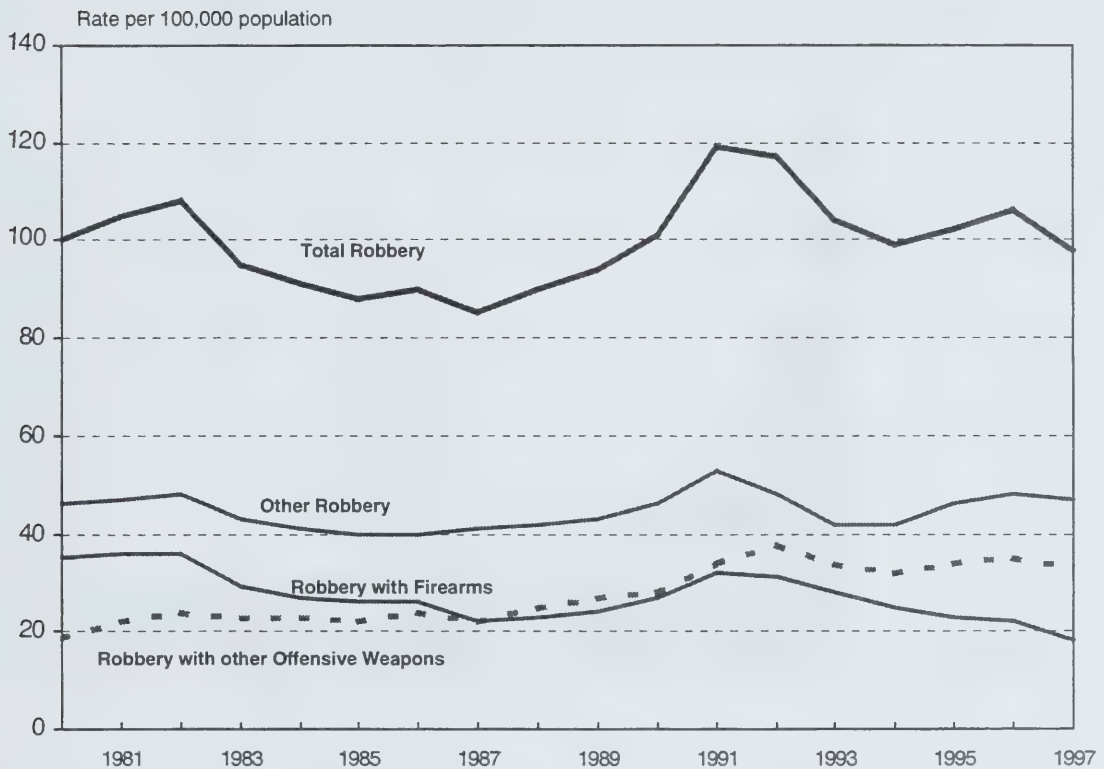


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No. 11 "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the physical assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels of physical assault: level 1 (minor assault), level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm), and level 3 (aggravated assault).
- Among the provinces, Manitoba reported the highest assault rate per 100,000 population in 1997, while Quebec reported the lowest rate. Manitoba's high rate may be due to a new zero tolerance mandatory charging policy for incidents of spousal assault. This order of ranking is consistent with 1996.
- Between 1996 and 1997, the largest increase occurred in Saskatchewan (+16%). Eight jurisdictions recorded decreases in the rate of assault. The largest decrease was in Prince Edward Island (-14%).

Figure 2.12

## Robbery Incidents, Canada, 1980 to 1997



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

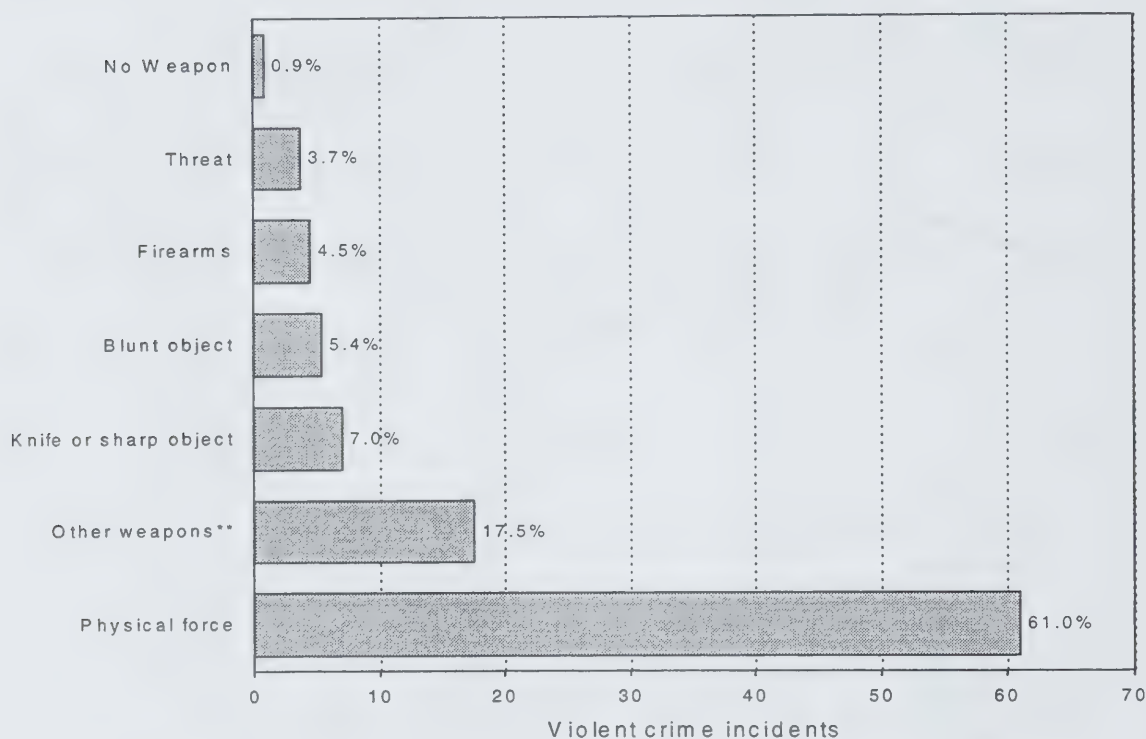
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11 "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, police reported a total of 29,590 incidents of robbery, or a rate of 98 incidents per 100,000 population, accounting for 10% of all violent incidents that year. The 1997 rate is a decrease of 7.9% from 1996.
- In 1997, 18.5% of robbery incidents involved firearms, 33.5% involved other offensive weapons (e.g. knives, blunt objects), and 48% involved no weapon. Since 1991, the number and proportion of robbery incidents involving firearms has been decreasing.
- The trend in the rate of robbery shows increases during years that correspond roughly with times of economic recession.



Figure 2.13

### Most Serious Form of Violence Present in Violent Crime, 1997\*



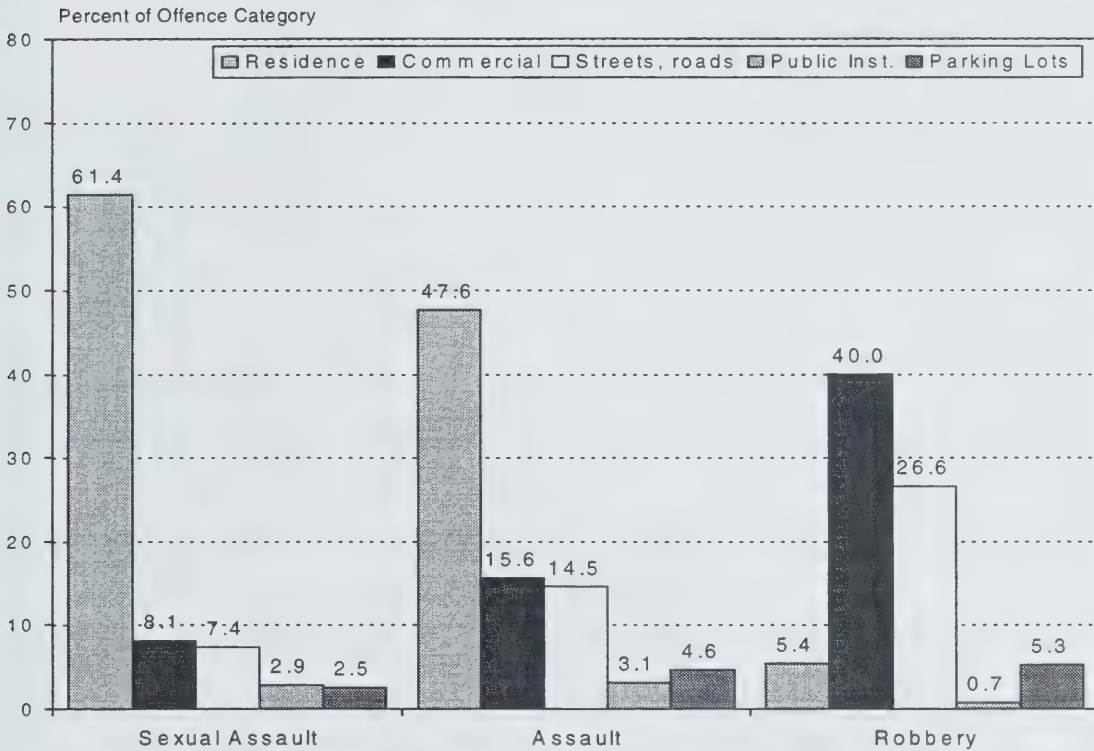
\* Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, physical and sexual assaults, other assaults, robberies and abduction. Based on a non-random sample of 179 police agencies accounting for 48% of the national volume of reported crime. The data are not nationally representative.

\*\* Caution must be taken when examining the "other" weapons category. The figures are somewhat inflated, as the Toronto police include a number of methods in this category that would normally be coded as physical force. Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 61% of violent incidents reported to the 1997 Revised Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey, physical force was the most serious form of violence present; in 34% of incidents, a weapon was present (i.e. firearm, knife, etc.) and in 4% of incidents, threats were the most serious form of violence.
- Consistent with the trend since 1979, firearm homicides accounted for one-third (33%) of all homicides. One-in-five robberies in 1997 involved a firearm.

Figure 2.14

# Percentage Distribution of Violent Incidents by Location, 1997\*

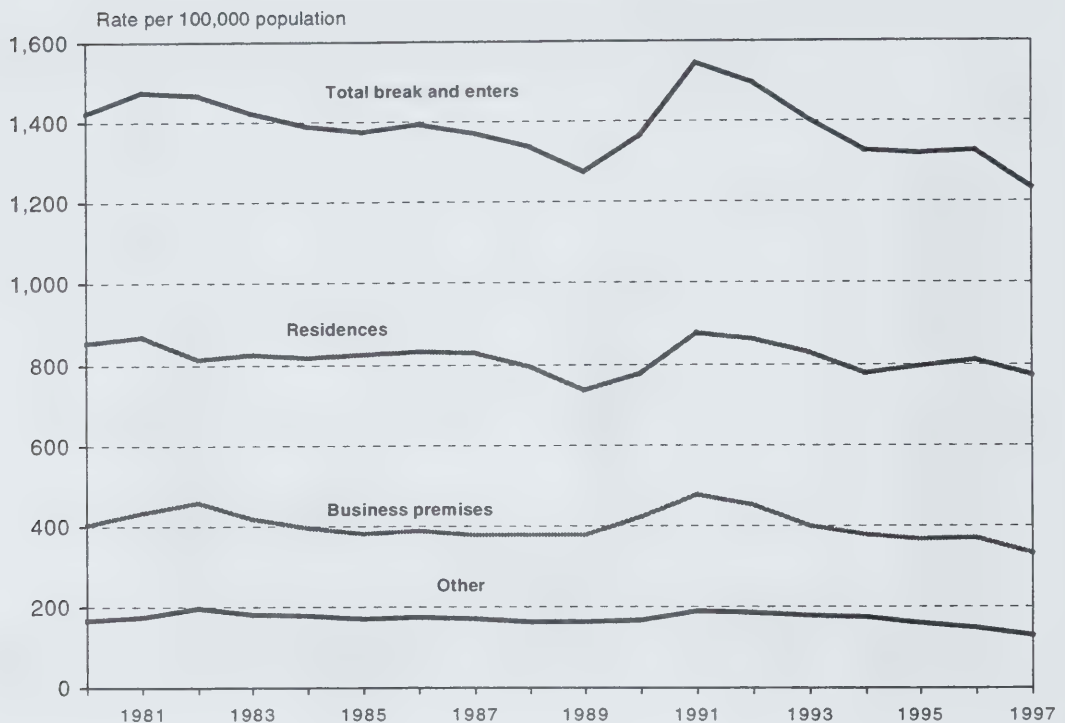


\* Based on a non-random sample of 179 police agencies accounting for 48% of the national volume of reported crime. The data are not nationally representative.  
Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, 61.4% of sexual assaults took place in residences and 8.1% in commercial establishments while 7.4% took place outdoors or on the streets. An additional 4.9% occurred in an open area, such as a park.
- 47.6% of assaults occurred in residences, 14.5% on the streets and 15.6% in commercial or corporate places. An additional 4.9% occurred in schools.
- 40% percent of robberies took place in commercial or corporate places and another 26.6% occurred on the streets.
- The remainder of incidents not illustrated in the graphs occurred in hotels/motels, schools, public transportation, open areas, or unknown locations.

Figure 2.15

## Breaking and Entering Incidents, Canada, 1980 to 1997



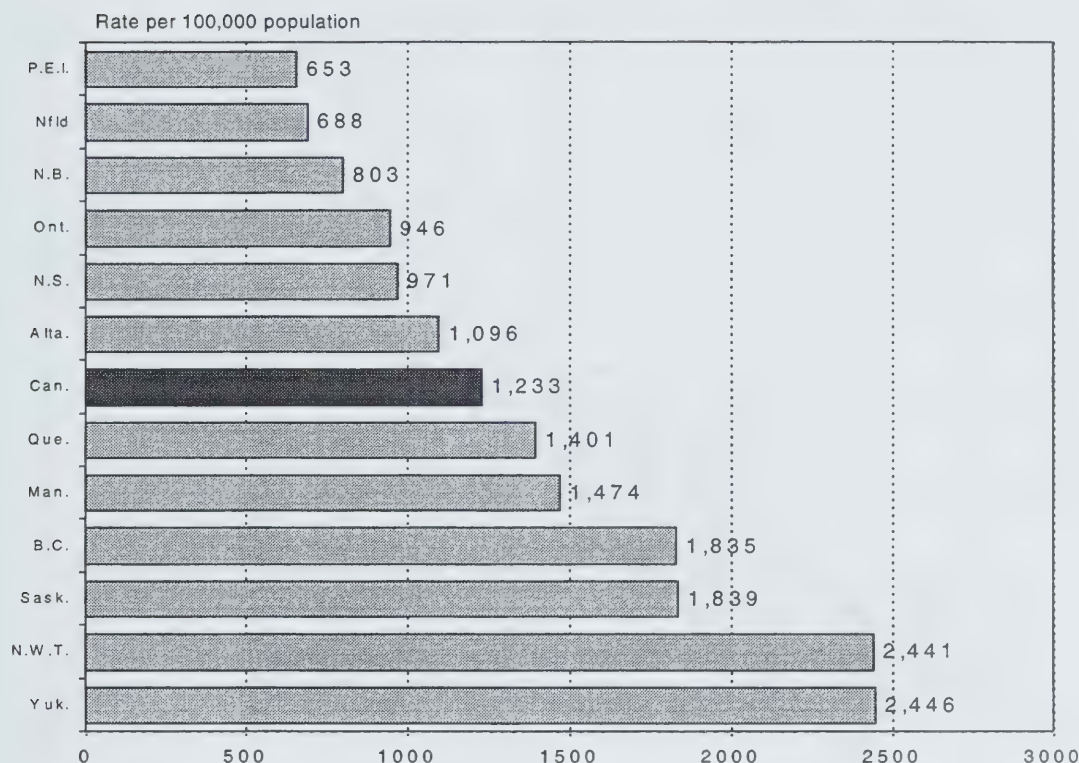
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11 "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, police reported 373,355 incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) which accounted for one-quarter of all property incidents.
- After declining from 1991 to 1994, the B&E rate remained stable in 1995 and 1996, and showed a further decrease of 7% in 1997. The rate of B&E's in a business premise decreased by 10%, other types of B&E decreased by 13%, and in residences by 5%.
- Breaking and entering incidents generally have low clearance rates. In 1997, only 10% were cleared by charge and an additional 5% were cleared otherwise.
- While youth 12 to 17 years of age accounted for 29% of persons charged with property crimes in 1997, they made up 40% of those charged with B&E.



Figure 2.16

### Breaking and Entering Incidents, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997

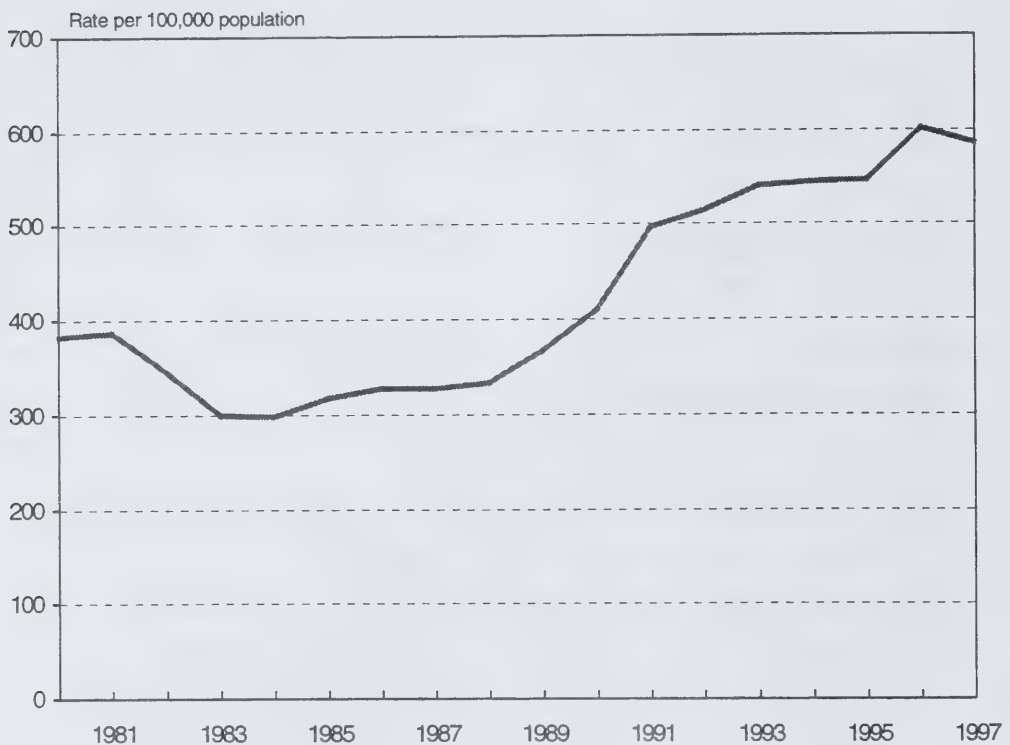


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No. 11 "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- Among the provinces, British Columbia had reported the highest break and enter rate per 100,000 population for each year over the last decade - however, in 1997, Saskatchewan had a slightly higher rate. The Atlantic provinces have historically reported lower break and enter rates than Central or Western Canada.
- Between 1996 and 1997, Saskatchewan (+2%), and Yukon (+1%) were the only jurisdictions to show increases. The largest decreases were in Prince Edward Island (-19%) and in the Northwest Territories (-17%). The overall rate for Canada decreased by 7%.

Figure 2.17

## Motor Vehicle Theft Incidents, Canada, 1980 to 1997

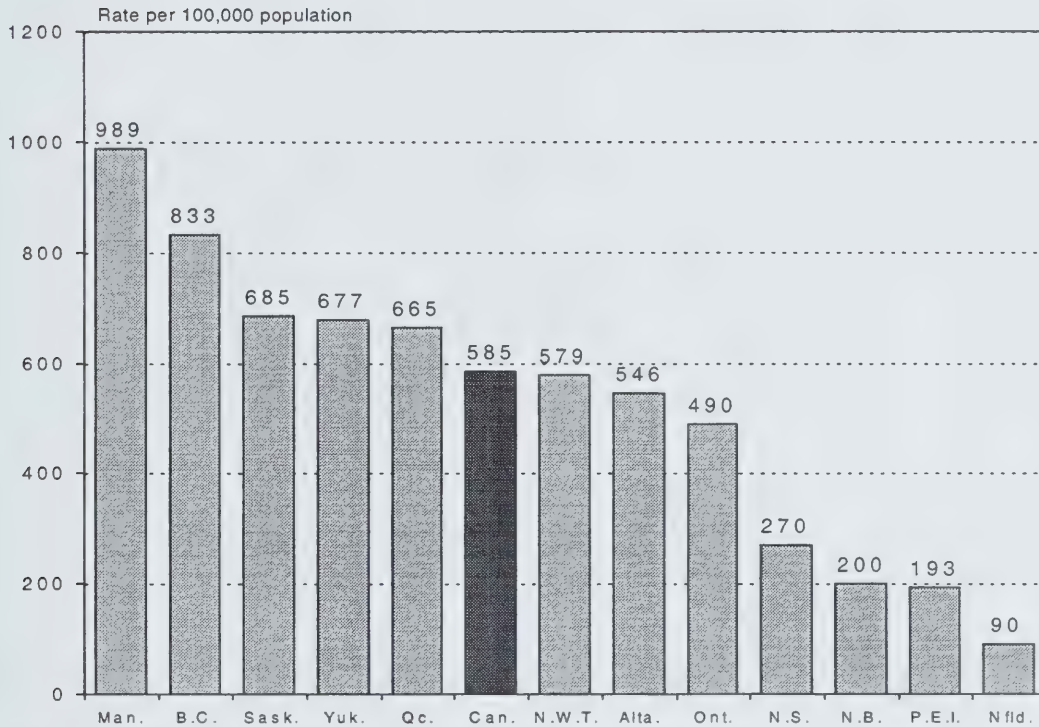


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No. 1 "Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada, 1996."

- In 1997, motor vehicle thefts accounted for about 1 in 8 property crimes (177,286 incidents). After steady growth for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft finally decreased in 1997 (-3%). The current rate, however, is still much higher than five (+14%) and ten (+79%) years ago.
- Motor vehicle theft is generally described as a youth crime. In 1997, 43% of persons charged with motor vehicle thefts were youths aged 12 to 17 years. In comparison, youths accounted for 22% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences.
- Compared to other property crimes, motor vehicle thefts are rarely solved by police. Only 12% of motor vehicle thefts were solved by police in 1997, compared to 24% of all other property crimes.

Figure 2.18

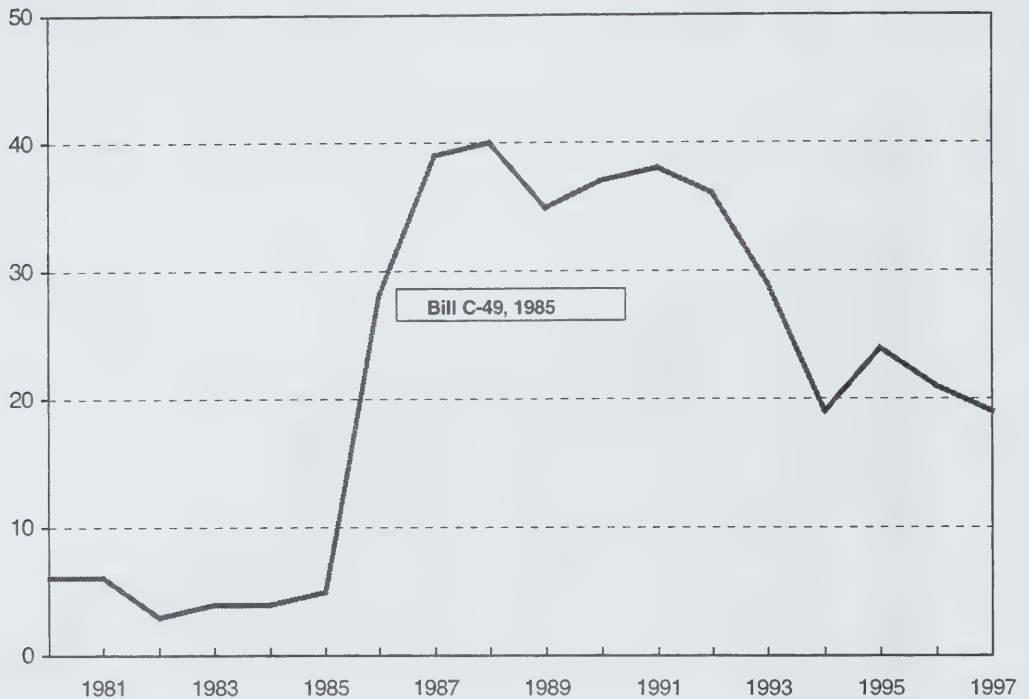
### Rate of Motor Vehicle Thefts per 100,000 Population, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No. 1 "Motor Vehicle Theft in Canada, 1996."

- In 1997, Manitoba reported the highest rate of motor vehicle theft (989 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by British Columbia (833). As in previous years, the lowest rates were reported by the Eastern provinces.
- After a decade of steady growth, Canada's rate of motor vehicle theft finally decreased in 1997 (-3%). Despite the decline at the national level, only three provinces reported a decrease: British Columbia (-14.2%), Newfoundland (-7.3%) and Ontario (-5.6%).

Figure 2.19  
Prostitution Incidents, Canada, 1980 to 1997



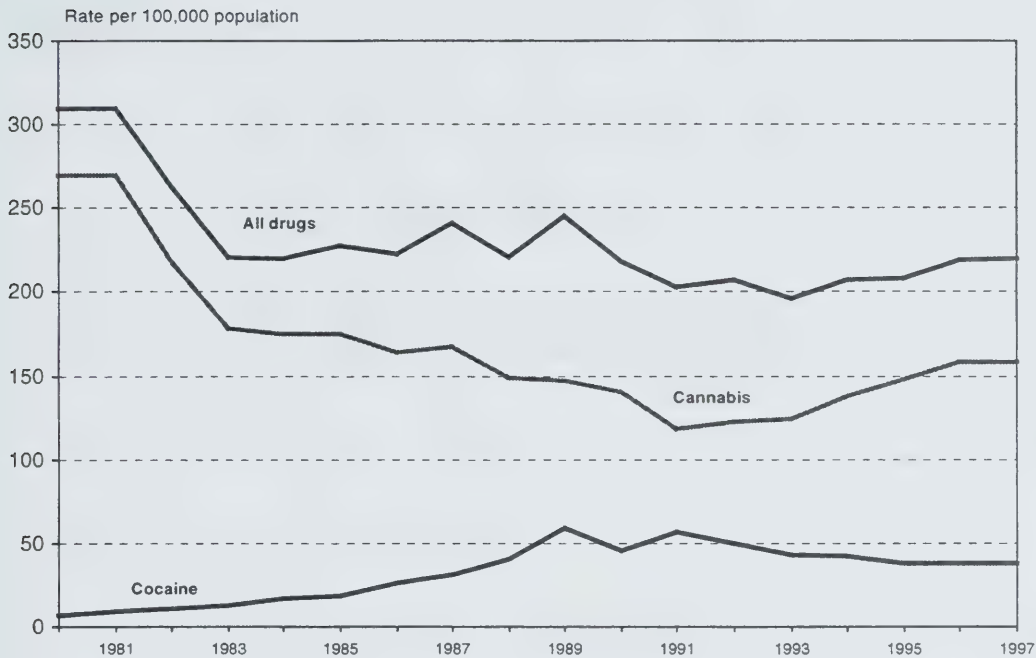
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.17, No.2, "Street Prostitution in Canada."

- In 1985, Bill C-49 expanded the definition of soliciting to include the act of stopping or attempting to stop a person to communicate for the purpose of engaging in prostitution. This amendment resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of prostitution-related incidents after 1985.
- The rate of prostitution-related offences rose steadily after 1985 to reach a peak of 40 per 100,000 population in 1988. Despite a noticeable increase in 1995, the rate has been generally decreasing since 1987 to a rate of 19 per 100,000 population in 1997.
- In 1997, police reported a total of 5,812 prostitution-related incidents. The offence of "communication" accounted for 89% of incidents. The remaining incidents included bawdy house and procuring (i.e. pimping) offences.
- Police-reported counts of prostitution offences are highly sensitive to changes in police enforcement practices.



Figure 2.20

## Drug Incidents, Canada, 1980 to 1997



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, police reported 66,521 incidents where a drug violation was the most serious offence. These incidents accounted for only 2.5% of federal statute incidents reported by police (excluding Criminal Code traffic offences) that year.
- During the past decade, the rate of drug offences peaked in 1989 (245 incidents per 100,000 population) and then gradually declined to a rate of 196 in 1993. Despite increases since 1993, the rate of drug-related incidents remained virtually unchanged in 1997 (+0.1%).
- After growing steadily since 1991, the rate of cannabis offences also remained unchanged (+0.3%), a stability which fuelled the stability in the overall rate of drug offences. Consistent with the general downward trend since 1992, the rate of cocaine offences dropped again in 1997 (-1.6%).
- Cannabis offences have historically accounted for the majority of drug offences, yet their proportion is decreasing while the proportion of cocaine offences is growing. Cannabis offences accounted for 72% of drug offences in 1997, compared to 87% in 1980. While cocaine offences made up 17% of drug offences in 1997, they accounted for only 2% in 1980.
- Historically, the majority of drug incidents involve "possession" (62% in 1997) and most incidents involve cannabis.



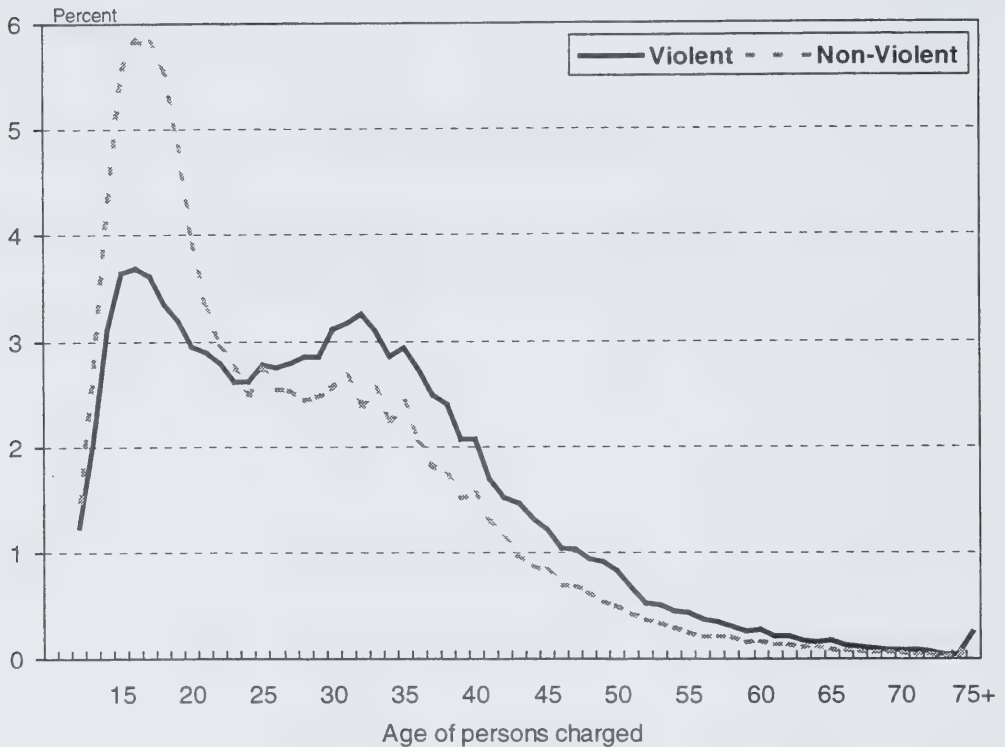


**SECTION 2B:**

# **THE ACCUSED**

Figure 2.21

### Age of Persons Accused\*, Violent and Non-Violent Incidents, 1997\*\*



\* Excludes cases where age is unknown.

\*\* Based on a non-random sample of 179 police agencies accounting for 48% of the national volume of reported crime. The data are not nationally representative.

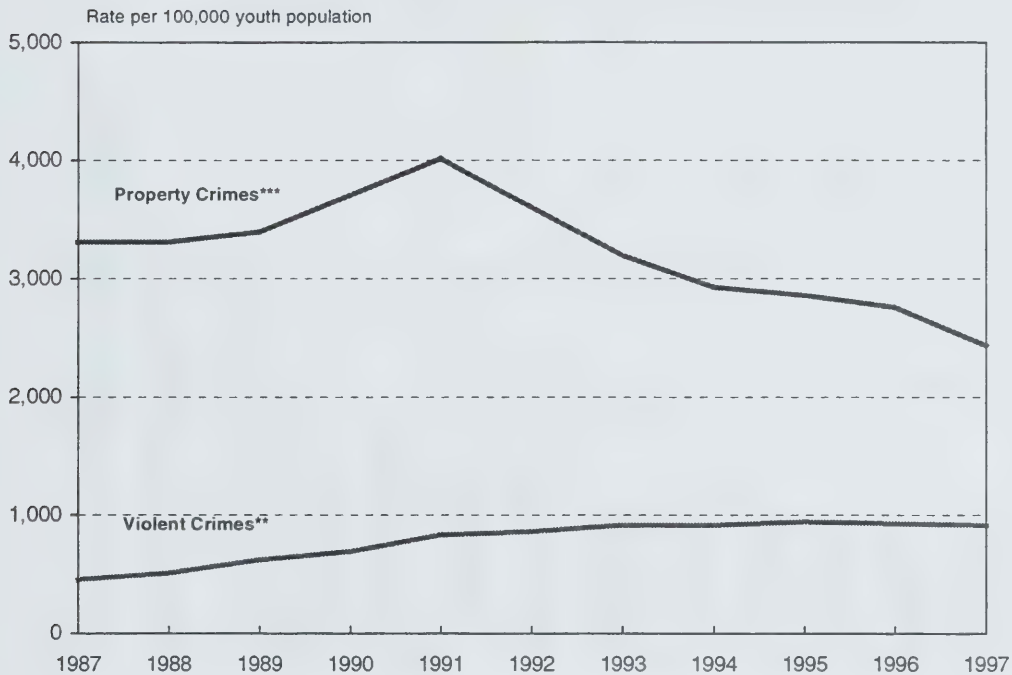
Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997. For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- The 1997 Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey showed that persons charged with violent crimes tended to be older than persons charged with non-violent crimes. Persons charged with non-violent crimes (e.g. break and enter, mischief) had a median age of 24 years while those accused of violent crimes had a median age of 29 years.
- Non-violent crimes are more often committed by persons aged 14 to 20 years. Persons 16 years of age accounted for the largest single age group of persons charged with non-violent crime.
- In 1997, the ages for persons charged with violent offences peaked at 17 with a smaller peak at 33. The involvement of persons in violent crime over the age of 32 continually decreased with age.



Figure 2.22

### Rate of Youth Charged\* with Violent or Property Crime, Canada, 1987 to 1997



\* Rates based on youth population 12 to 17 years of age.

\*\* Violent crime includes homicide, attempted murder, physical and sexual assaults, other assaults, robberies and abduction.

\*\*\* Property crime includes breaking and entering, theft of motor vehicles, theft over \$5,000, theft \$5,000 and under, possession of stolen goods, and fraud.

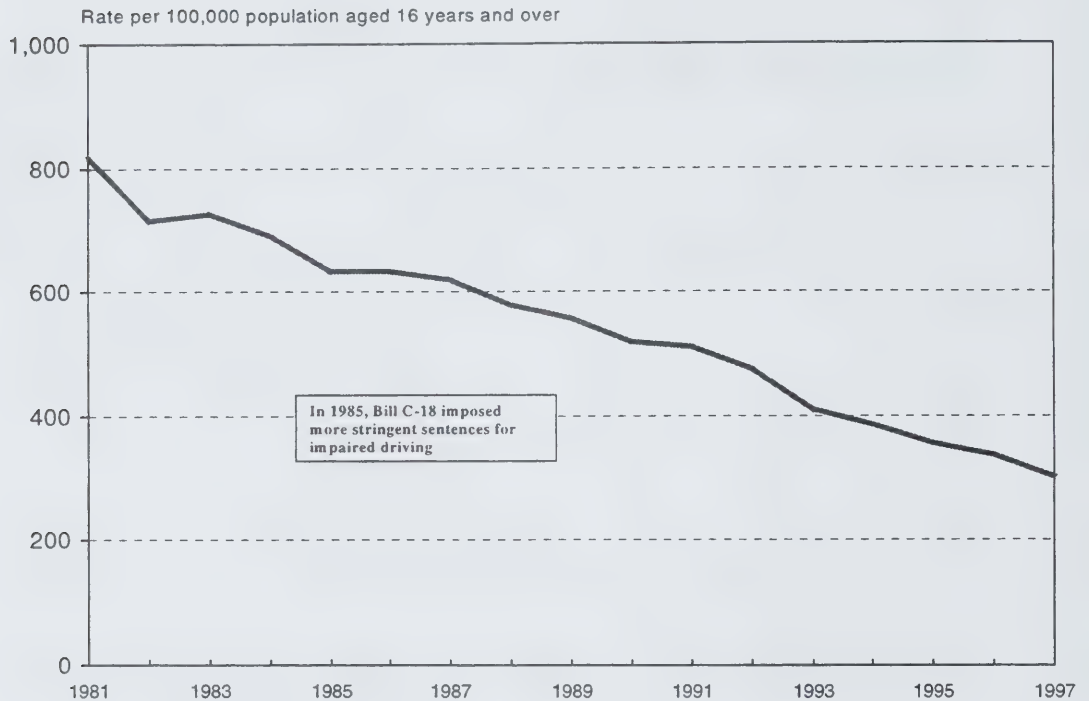
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, 22,252 youth were charged in violent incidents, translating into a rate of 910 per 100,000 youths.
- The rate of youth charged in violent crimes in 1997 decreased by 2% from the previous year, marking the second year in a row where the rate showed a decrease. Prior to this decline, there was an average annual increase of 10% in the rate of youth charged in violent incidents.
- 20% of youth charged with Criminal Code incidents in 1997 were charged with violent crimes. Of these, just over one-half of youths charged with violent crimes were charged with assault level 1 (minor assault).
- In 1997, 59,532 youth (12 to 17 years) were charged in property incidents, translating into a rate of 2,434 per 100,000 youth, a decrease of 12% from the previous year's rate of 2,759. The youth property crime rate has been decreasing annually since 1991, when it peaked at 4,012.

Figure 2.23

## Rate of Persons Charged with Impaired Driving\*, Canada, 1981 to 1997



\* Includes operation of a motor vehicle, vessel or aircraft.

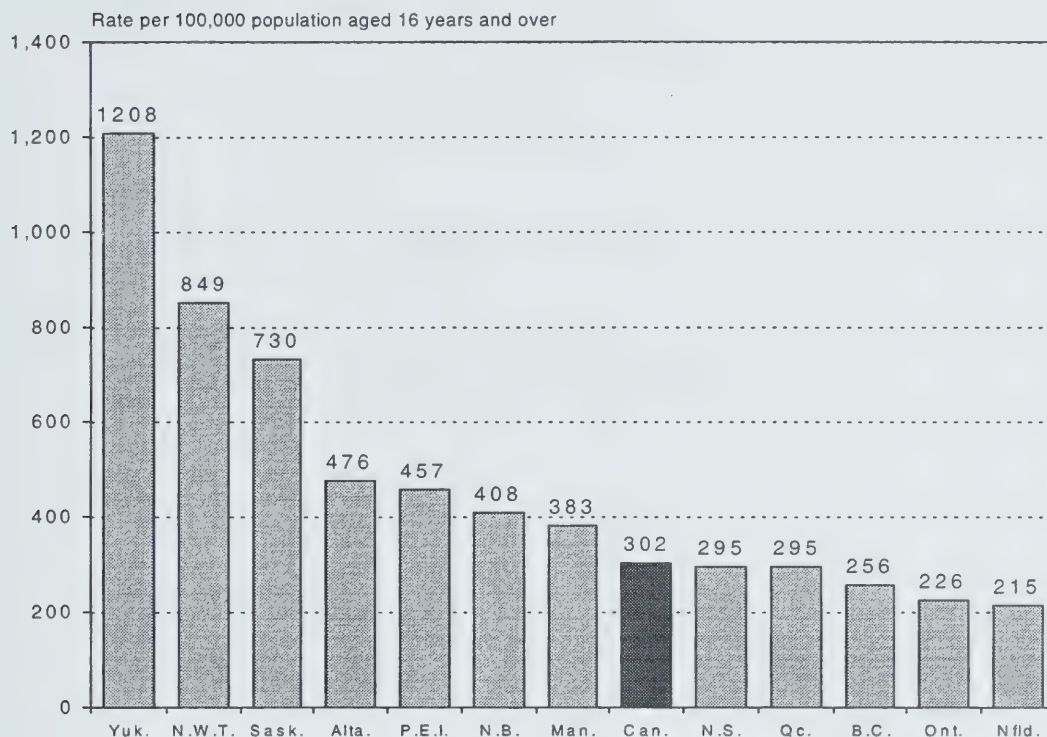
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 17, No. 12, "Impaired Driving in Canada - 1996."

- In 1997, there were 72,139 persons charged with impaired driving offences. In other words, for every 100,000 persons aged 16 years and over, 302 were charged with impaired driving. This rate represents a 10% decrease from 1996.
- The rate of persons charged with impaired driving has been continually decreasing since 1983.
- In 1985, Bill C-18 imposed more stringent sentences for drinking and driving. Despite the severity of penalties, police-reported impaired driving offences are highly sensitive to changes in police enforcement practices.

Figure 2.24

### Persons Charged with Impaired Driving\*, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997



\* Includes operation of a motor vehicle, vessel or aircraft.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 17, No. 12, "Impaired Driving in Canada, 1996."

- In 1997, 302 persons were charged with impaired driving per 100,000 persons aged 16 and older. Provincial rates varied from a high of 730 in Saskatchewan to 215 in Newfoundland.
- Between 1996 and 1997, 4 jurisdictions (Yukon +13%, Northwest Territories +11%, Manitoba +9% and Saskatchewan +2%) reported an increase in their rate. Ontario and Newfoundland reported the largest decreases (-19%).







**SECTION 2C:**

**THE VICTIM**

Figure 2.25

### Percentage Distribution of Victims of Violent Crime by Age, Canada, 1997\*

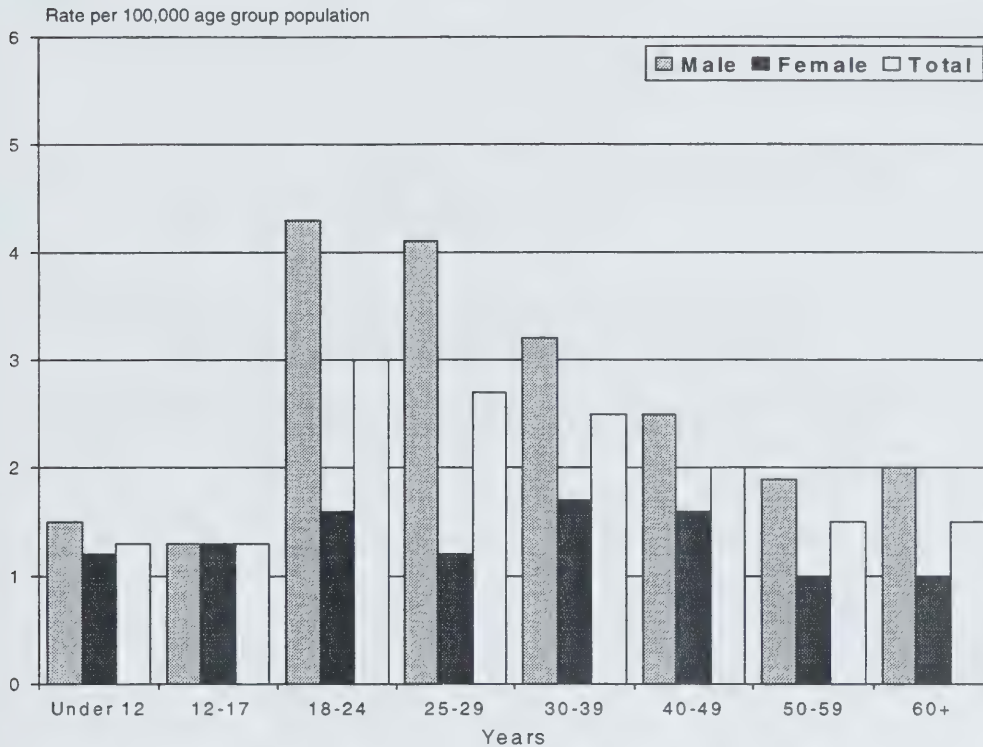


\* Based on a non-random sample of 179 police agencies accounting for 48% of the national volume of reported crime. The data are not nationally representative.  
Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997."

- In 1997, half of the Canadian population was under 35 years of age. Persons aged 14 and under made up 20% of the population, those aged 15-24 made up 13% and the 25-34 age category accounted for 16% of all Canadians.
- The 1997 Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey showed that victim of violent crime were 13 to 33 years. The median age of violent crime victims was 27 years of age while the peak age of victims of violent crime was 20 years.

Figure 2.26

## Victims of Homicide by Age and Gender, Canada, 1997



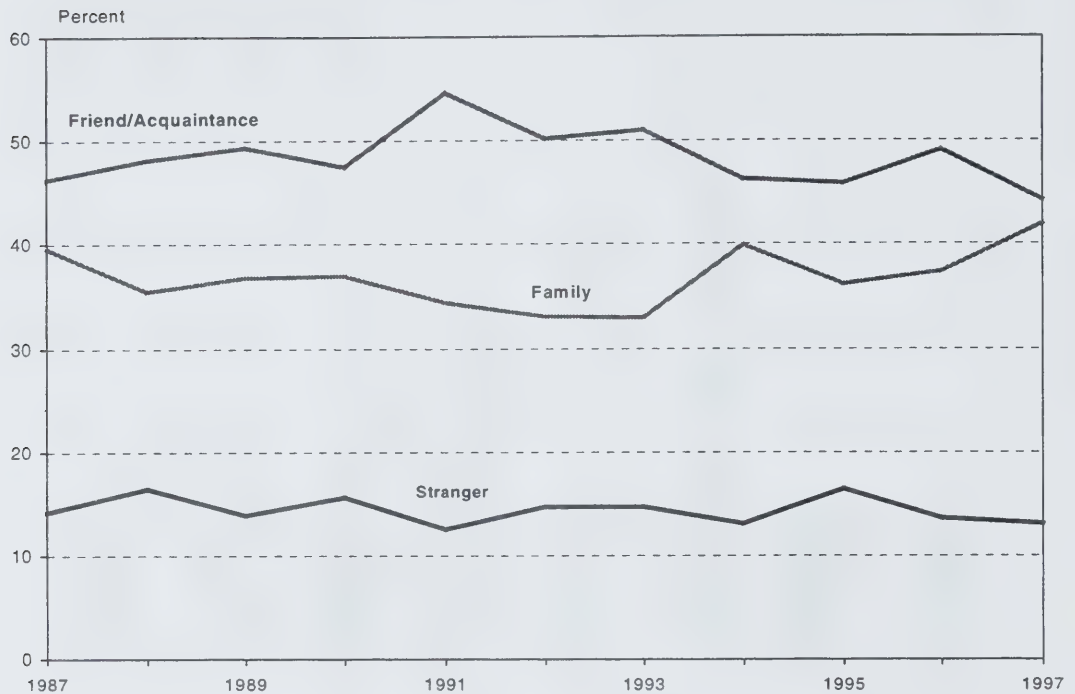
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada, 1997."

- Consistent with previous years, two-thirds of all victims of homicide in 1997 were male and one-third were female.
- In 1997, males between the ages of 18-24 were at greatest risk of being a homicide victim. The next most vulnerable group were men aged 25 to 29 years. Of female victims, the most vulnerable group were aged 30 to 39.

Figure 2.27

## Homicides by Accused-Victim Relationship, Canada, 1987 to 1997



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18, No.12, "Homicide in Canada, 1997."

- Homicides are roughly 6 times more likely to occur at the hands of someone known to the victim than at the hands of a stranger.
- Of the homicides in 1997 where an accused was identified, 42% of the victims were killed by a spouse or other family member, 44% were killed by a friend or acquaintance and 13% were killed by strangers.
- Despite annual fluctuations, the proportion of homicides committed by a stranger has remained relatively stable from 1987 to 1997.



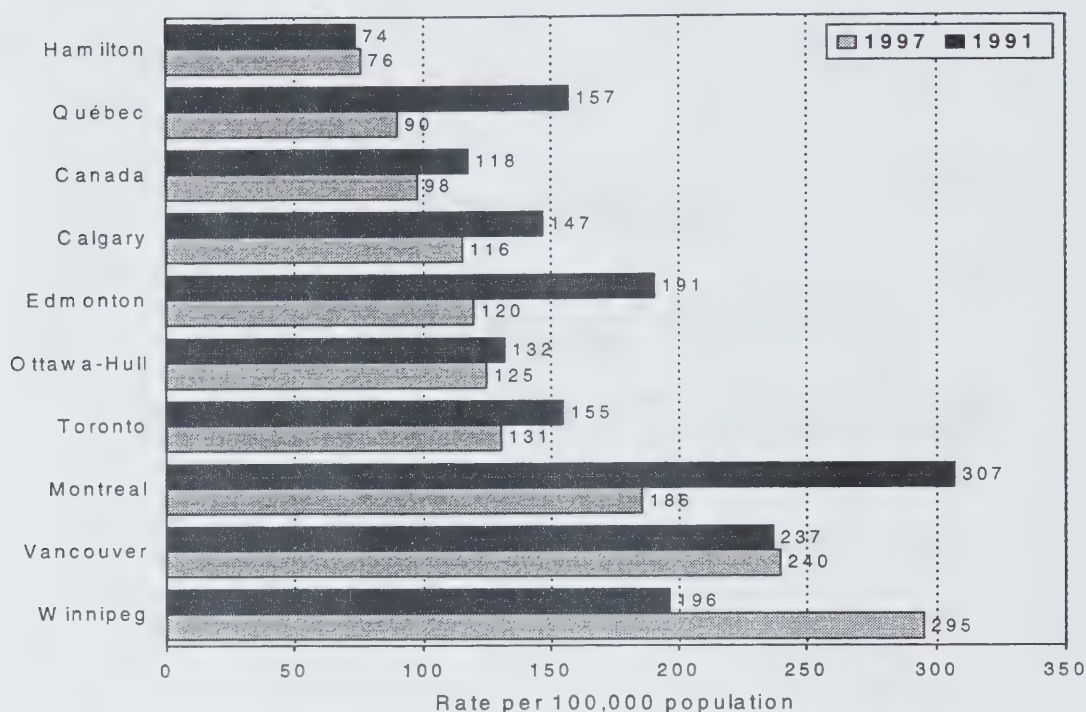


**SECTION 2D:**

# **CRIME IN CENSUS METROPOLITAN AREAS**

Figure 2.28

## Robbery Rates for Larger CMAs,\* 1991 and 1997



\* An urbanized core with at least 500,000 population.

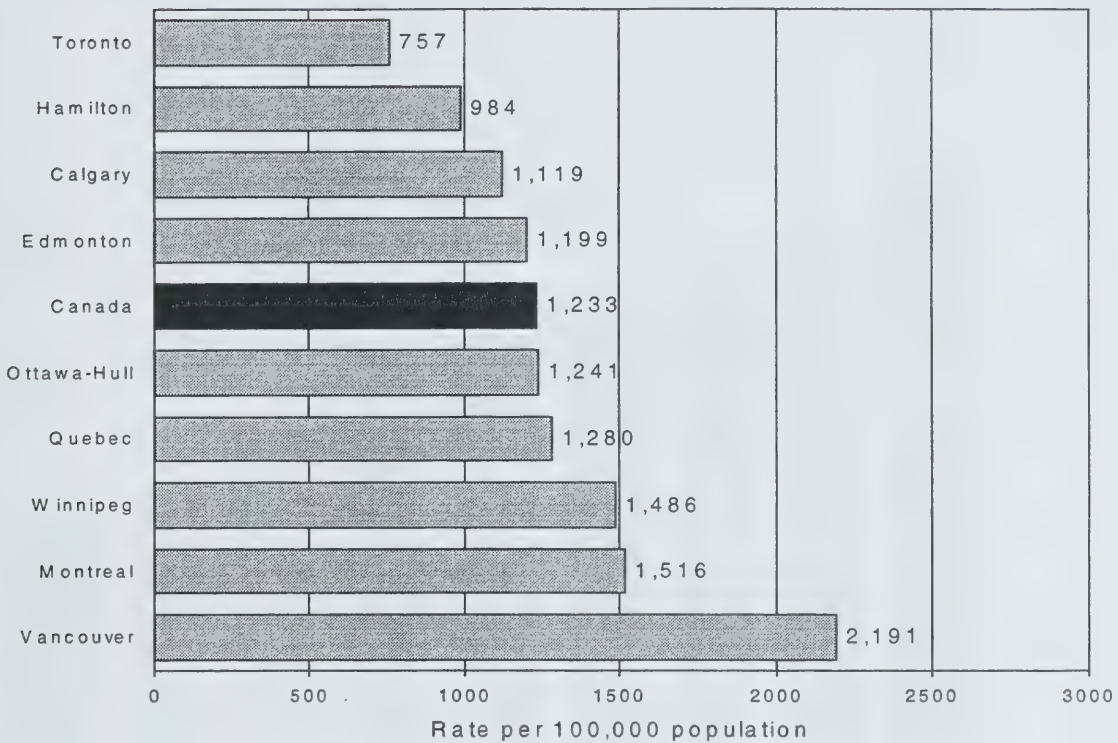
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002), Vol. 17, No. 5, "Crime in Major Metropolitan Areas, 1991-1996".

- In 1997, the national robbery rate was 98 per 100,000 population. Among the nine largest CMAs only Hamilton and Quebec City fell below the national level. Winnipeg (295 per 100,000), Vancouver (240 per 100,000) and Montreal (186 per 100,000) all had robbery rates well over the national level and have consistently had the highest robbery rates since 1991. After two years in a row, the national rate of robbery decreased 8% in 1997.
- In 1997, all but three CMAs posted decreases in their robbery rates since 1991. The most significant declines were Quebec (-43%), Montreal (-39%), and Edmonton (-37%). Those CMAs which posted increases in their robbery rates were Winnipeg (34%), Hamilton (3%) and Vancouver (1%).

Figure 2.29

## Breaking and Entering Rates for Larger CMAs\*, 1997



\* An urbanized core with at least 500,000 population.

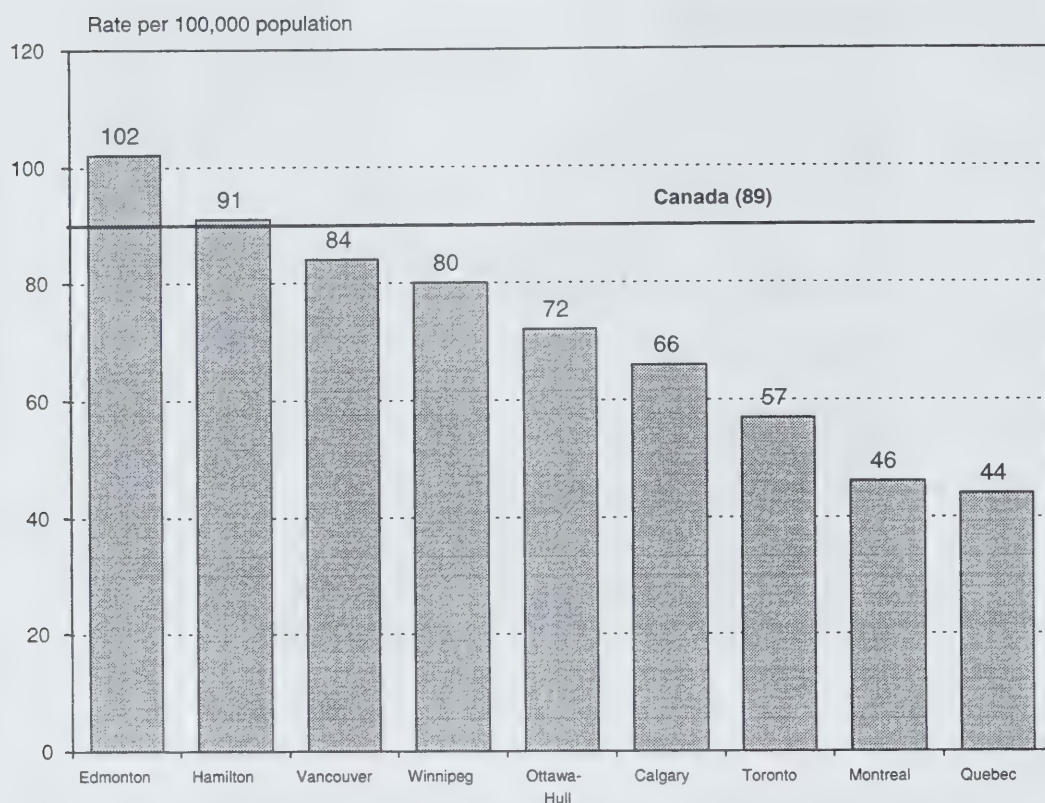
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002), Vol. 17, No. 5, "Crime in Major Metropolitan Areas, 1991-1996".

- In 1997, the national rate of B&E was 1,233 per 100,000 population. Toronto (757 per 100,000 pop.) and Hamilton (984 per 100,000 pop.) had the lowest B&E rates among larger CMAs, while Vancouver's rate was the highest (2,191).
- From 1996 to 1997, all CMA's saw a decline in their B&E, with the exception of Montreal (+0.8%). The biggest decreases were in Quebec (-16.9%), the Ottawa portion of the Ottawa-Hull CMA (-15.2%), and in Vancouver (-12.4%).

Figure 2.30

### Rate of Sexual Assault by Larger Census Metropolitan Area\*, 1997



\* An urbanized core with at least 500,000 population.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 No. 11, "Canadian Crime Statistics, 1997".

- In 1997, the national rate of sexual assault was 89 per 100,000 population. With the exception of Edmonton (102 per 100,000 pop) and Hamilton (91 per 100,000 pop), all larger CMAs fell below the national level.
- Quebec and Montreal had the lowest rates of sexual assault among larger CMAs (44 and 46 respectively). In fact, the national rate of sexual assault is more than double that of Quebec.
- The rank-order of cities is identical to 1996, with the exception of Winnipeg with a 25% increase from 1996, which moved it above Ottawa-Hull.
- There were 27,072 reported incidents of sexual assault in 1997, most of which (97%) were classified as level 1. In 1997, the rate of total sexual assaults decreased 0.9%, marking the fourth consecutive decline.



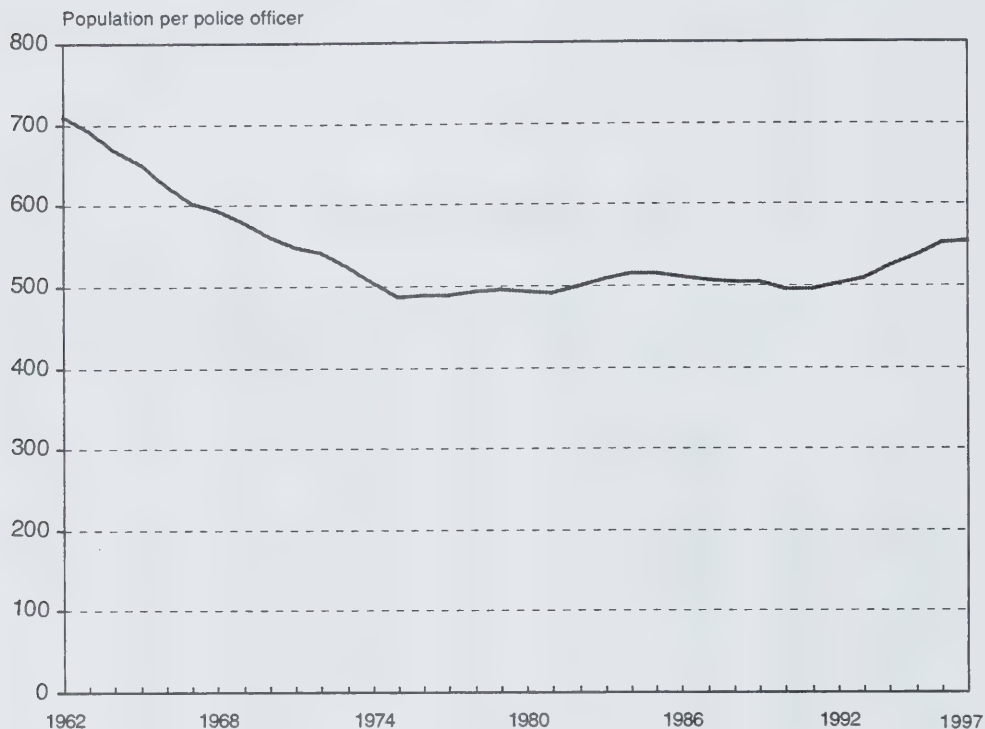


## **SECTION 3:**

# **POLICE PERSONNEL**

Figure 3.1

### Population per Police Officer, 1962 to 1997

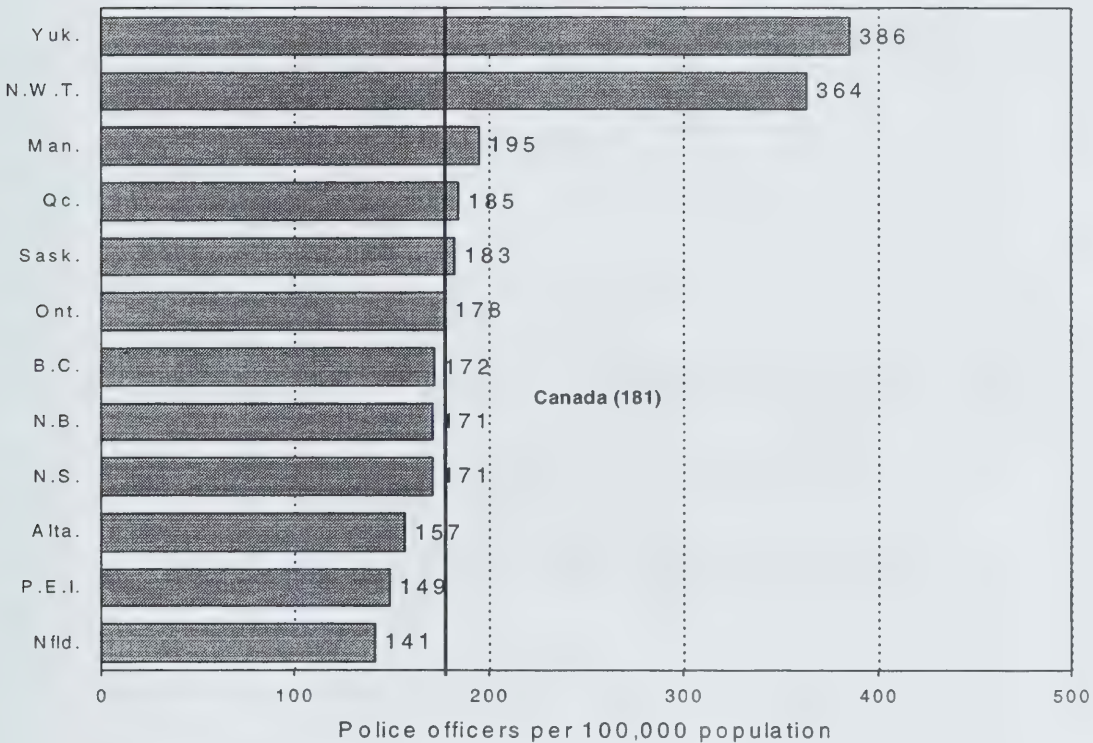


Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- In 1997, there were 54,699 police officers in Canada, an increase of less than 1% (376) from the previous year. 1997 marked the first increase since 1992.
- Between 1962 and 1975, the number of Canadians per police officer showed consistent decreases from 711 to 486. However, from 1975 to 1985, this ratio increased slightly reaching 515 people per police officer in 1985.
- In 1997, there were 554 persons for each police officer, the highest ratio since 1970.
- The population per police officer has been steadily increasing since 1991.

Figure 3.2

### Police Officers per 100,000 Population, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997



Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- Of the ten provinces, Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island had the lowest number of police officers per 100,000 (141 and 149 respectively), while Manitoba had the highest (195).
- Up until 1995, Quebec had shown the highest number of police officers per capita. The number of police officers in Quebec dropped by 6% between 1994 and 1996, with 1997 showing a smaller decrease (-0.3%).
- Between 1996 and 1997, the number of police officers per 100,000 population declined in three jurisdictions: Newfoundland (-4.5%), Saskatchewan (-1.9%) and Northwest Territories (-1.6%). Two jurisdictions had increases: Yukon (8.9%) and British Columbia (5.1%). The remaining provinces had increases or decreases of less than one percent.

Figure 3.3

### Number of Criminal Code Incidents per Police Officer, Canada, 1962 to 1997



Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- The number of Criminal Code incidents per officer steadily increased from 20 in 1962 to a peak of 51 in 1991, despite a large increase in the number of officers between 1962 and 1975. The rate declined between 1991 and 1994, and since then, the rate has increased slightly and levelled off at 46 incidents per officer in 1997.
- The ratio of Criminal Code incidents per officer in 1997 was nearly two-and-one-half times higher than in 1962.
- Despite the increasing ratio of incidents per police officer since 1962, the overall clearance rate for police forces has remained relatively constant over the last 31 years.



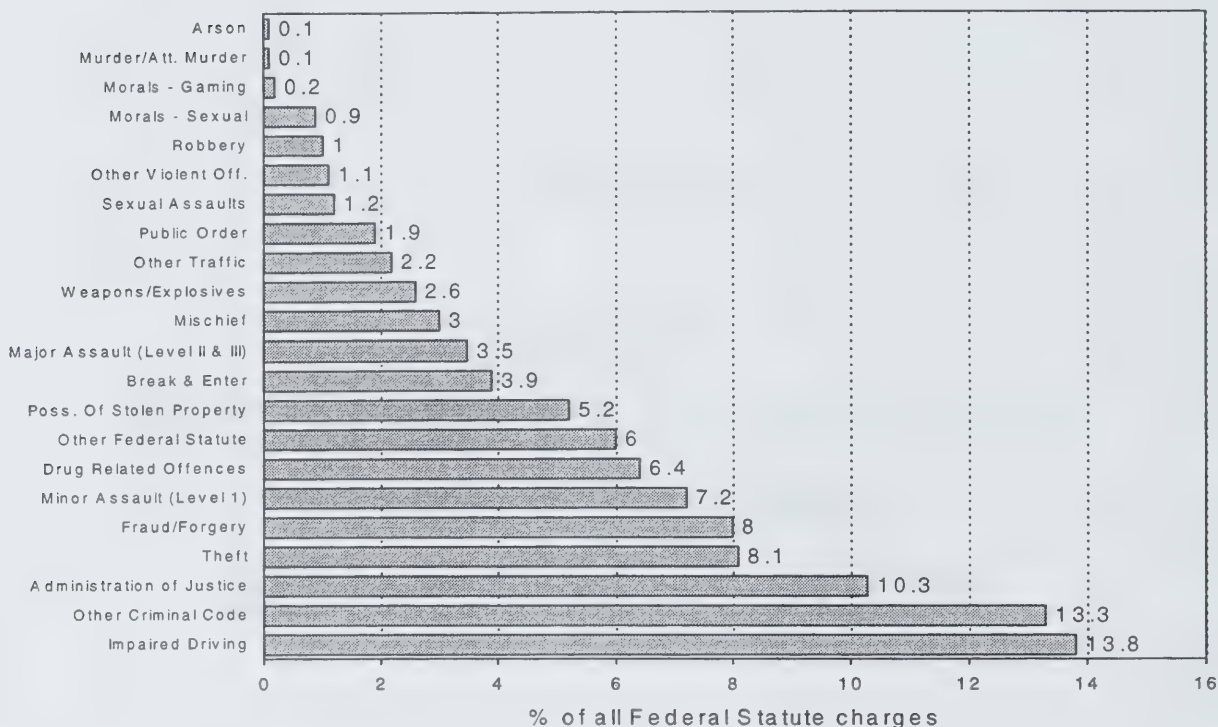


## **SECTION: 4**

# **ADULT PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL CRIMINAL COURT ACTIVITY IN CANADA**

Figure 4.1

### Federal Statute Charges Disposed of in Adult Criminal Court, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

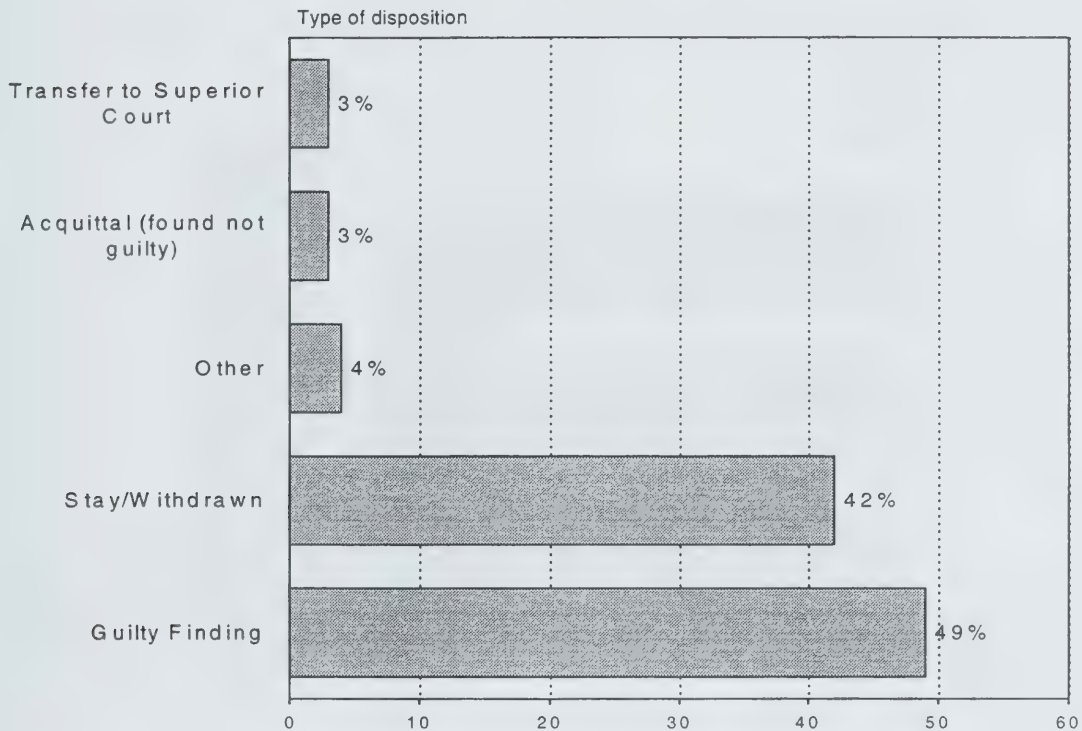
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- In 1996-97, approximately 14% of all Federal Statute charges disposed of in adult provincial criminal courts were related to violent offences, 28% were for property crimes, 16% for all Criminal Code traffic offences, 10% for administration of justice offences, and 13% were for Other Criminal Code offences.
- Assault level 1 (common assault) was the most common violent offence representing 7% of all Federal Statute charges and 51% of all violent charges disposed of in provincial court. Theft was the most common property offence representing 8% of all Federal Statute charges and 29% of all property charges disposed of in provincial court.
- Impaired driving was the single largest offence disposed of in provincial court. Its share of total Federal Statute charges ranged from 12% in Newfoundland to 27% in Prince Edward Island.

Figure 4.2

### Adult Court Dispositions, Federal Statute Charges, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

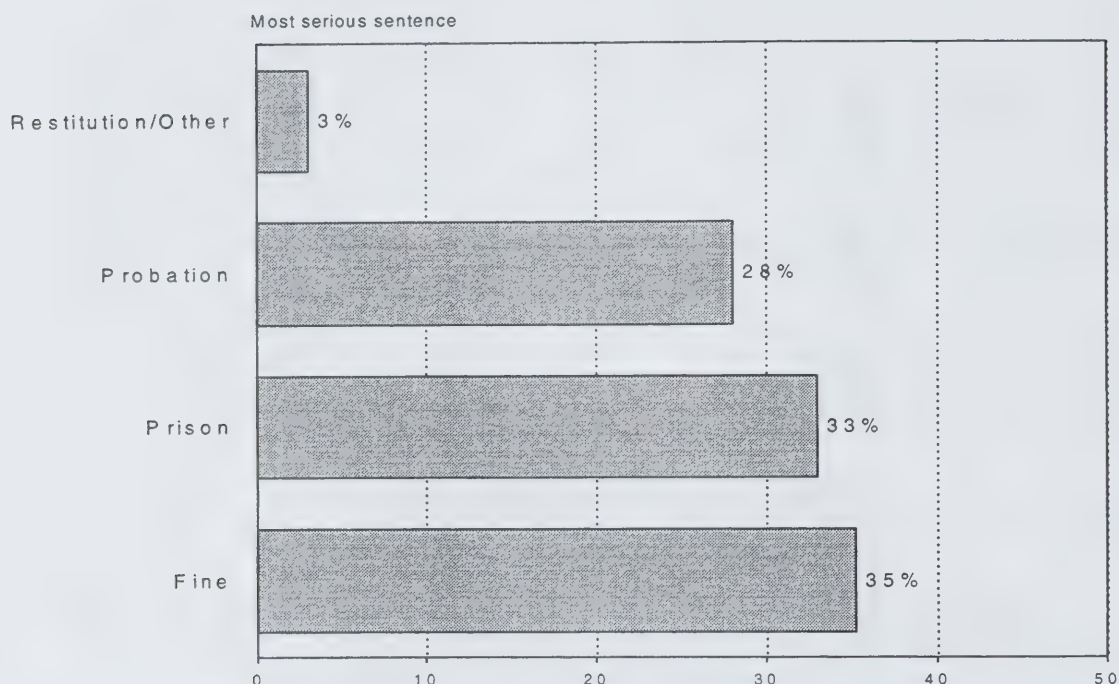
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- In 1996-97, about one-half of all Federal Statute charges resulted in a finding of guilt.
- Conviction rates varied by type of offence: 41% of violent offences ended in conviction, compared to 51% of property crimes.

Figure 4.3

### Adult Criminal Cases with a Guilty Finding by Most Serious Sentence, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage. Percentages do not add to 100% because in 4% of these cases, the sentence was unknown.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

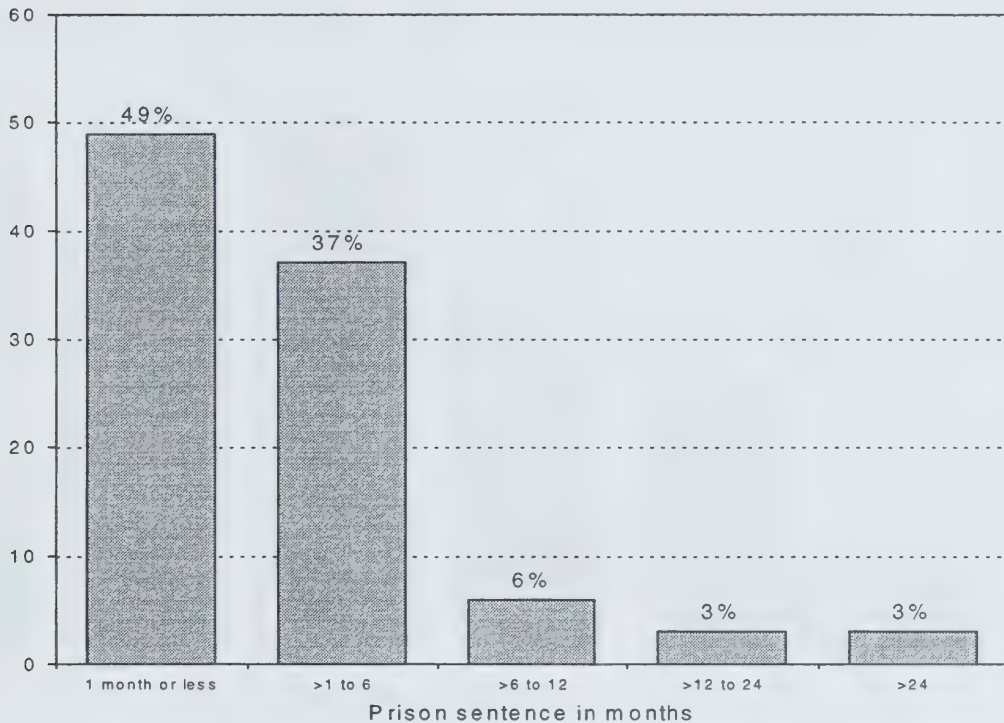
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- The Most Serious Sentence (MSS) received in Criminal Code cases is relatively evenly distributed between fine, prison, and probation. Restitution and other sentences are rarely the most serious sentence imposed.
- Variations in the MSS can be observed among different offence types. For example, 37% of property offences received a prison term as the MSS, but only 23% of Criminal Traffic offences received a prison sentence. In comparison, 66% of traffic offences received a fine as the MSS compared to only 19% of property crimes.
- Most Serious Sentences also vary among jurisdictions. For example, the percentage of violent offences which received a prison term as the MSS ranged from a high of 59% in Prince Edward Island to a low of 32% in Nova Scotia.



Figure 4.4

### Adult Criminal Cases by Length of Prison Sentence, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

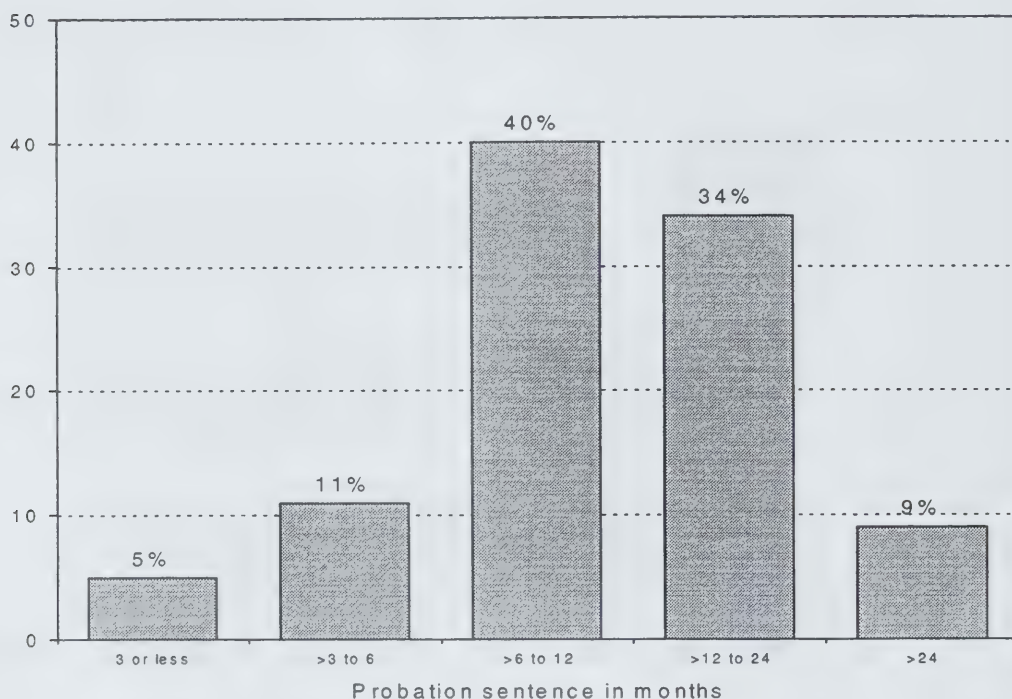
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- Almost half of all prison sentences are for a term of one month or less.
- Prison sentences for violent offences tend to be longer than for other offences in the Criminal Code. For example, 9% of prison sentences for violent offences versus 2% for property offences were for a term of more than 2 years.
- Sentencing patterns vary among jurisdictions. For example, the percentage of Criminal Code prison sentences which are 1 month or less range from a high of 75% in Prince Edward Island to a low of 37% in Quebec.

Figure 4.5

### Adult Criminal Cases by Length of Probation Sentence, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

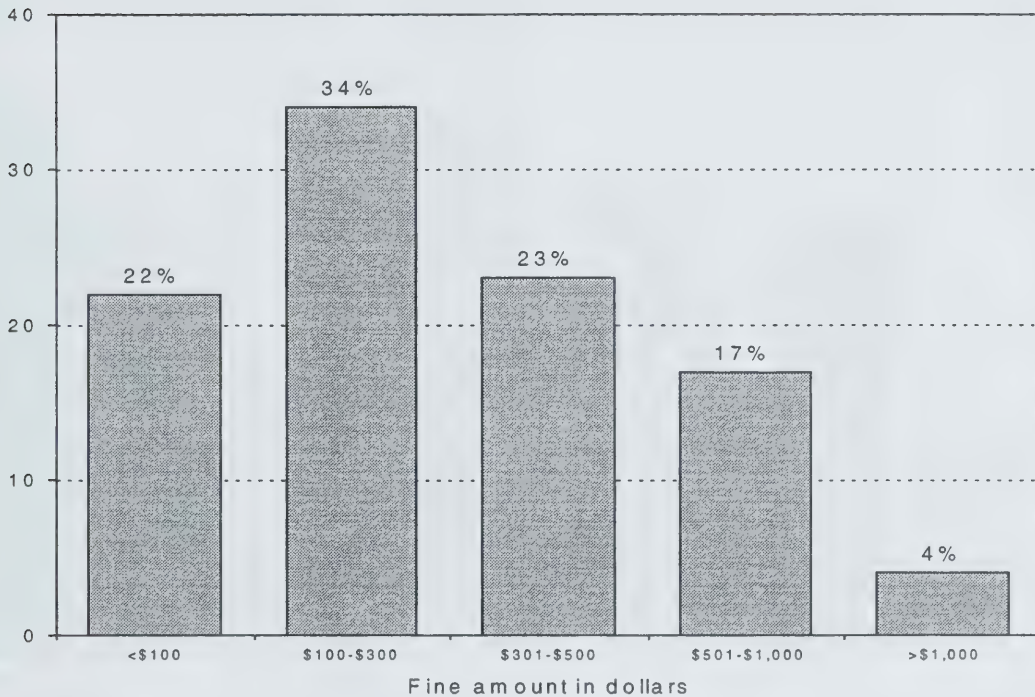
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- More than 80% of all probation sentences were for terms exceeding 6 months. Terms of 6 to 12 months were the most common with 40% of probation sentences falling into this category.
- 25% of all Criminal Code traffic (including impaired driving) probation sentences fell into the 3 to 6 month category, whereas only about 7% of violent crime offences received this probation sentence length.
- Convicted cases for all offence categories had a median length of probation sentence of approximately one year.

Figure 4.6

### Adult Criminal Cases by Amount of Fine, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

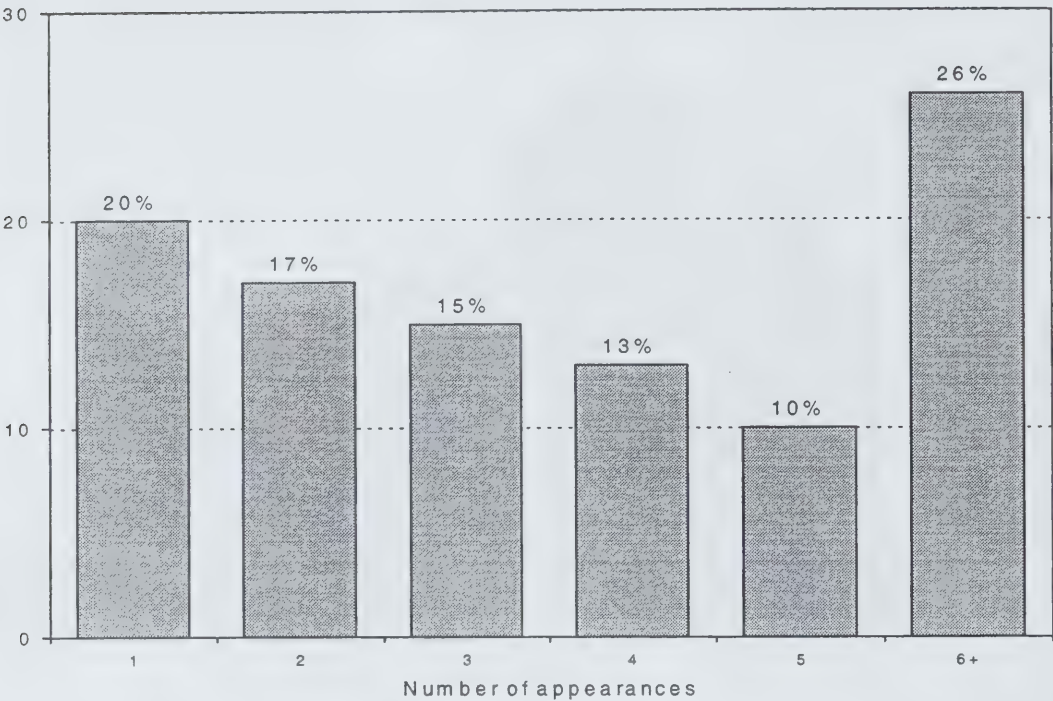
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- More than 69% of all violent and property offence fines are for \$300 or less. In contrast, 78% of Criminal Code traffic offence (including impaired driving) fines are for more than \$300. This occurs because most of the Criminal Code traffic offences are impaired driving cases which come with a mandatory minimum fine of \$300 for a first offence.
- The distribution of fine amounts varies among jurisdictions. For example, the percentage of all Federal Statute fines which are for \$300 or less ranged from a high of 71% in Quebec to a low of 26% in Prince Edward Island. Some of this difference can be explained by the fact that a much higher proportion of convicted cases in P.E.I. are for impaired driving. Because the minimum fine for impaired driving is \$300, a higher proportion of fine sentences in P.E.I. tend to fall into higher fine amount categories.

Figure 4.7

Adult Criminal Cases by Number of Appearances,  
Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

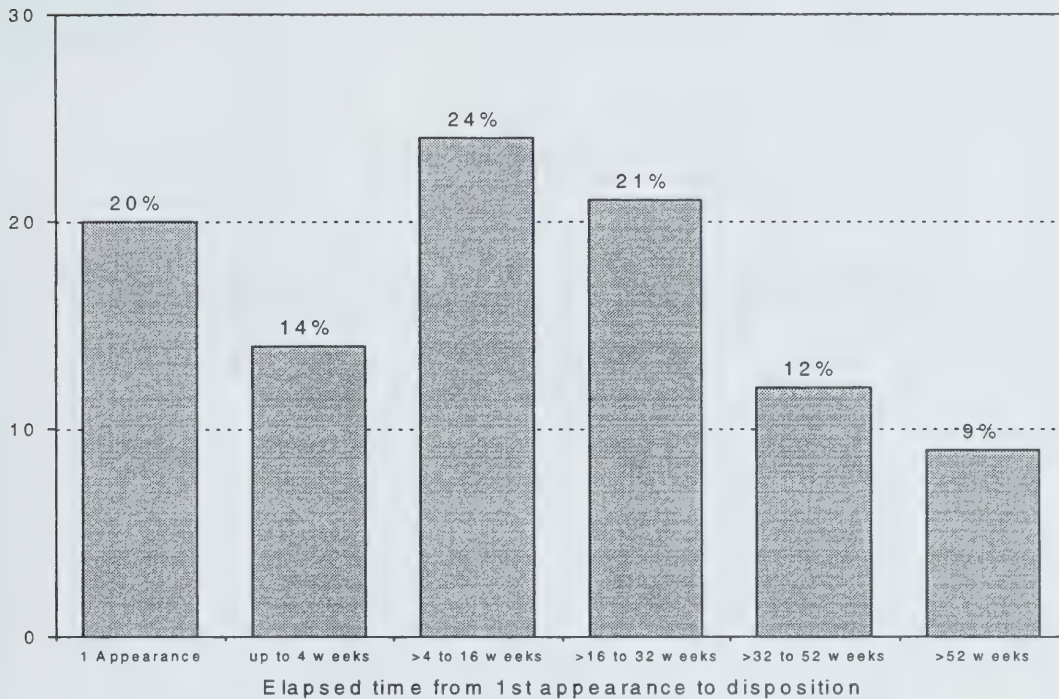
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- 52% of Criminal Code cases required 3 or fewer appearances to reach a final disposition. However 26% required 6 or more appearances to reach a final disposition.
- Violent offences required more appearances to reach a final disposition than property or Criminal Code traffic offences: 61% of all violent offences needed 4 or more appearances to reach a final disposition compared to 48% of property offences and 45% of Criminal Code traffic offences.



Figure 4.8

### Adult Criminal Cases by Elapsed Time From 1st Appearance to Disposition, Selected Jurisdictions, 1996-97\*



\* Includes provincial/territorial court data for Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Yukon. These data represent about 80% of national coverage.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 7, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1996-97".

- 58% of all Federal statute cases disposed of in provincial court reached a final disposition within 16 weeks, with only 9% of cases taking more than 1 year to reach a final disposition.
- About 21% of violent cases were disposed of within four weeks. In contrast, 36% of property offences and 33% of Criminal Code traffic offences were disposed of within 4 weeks.
- Elapsed times can vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. For instance, the percentage of cases in provincial criminal court which were completed within 16 weeks ranged from a high of 87% in Prince Edward Island to a low of 50% Quebec.



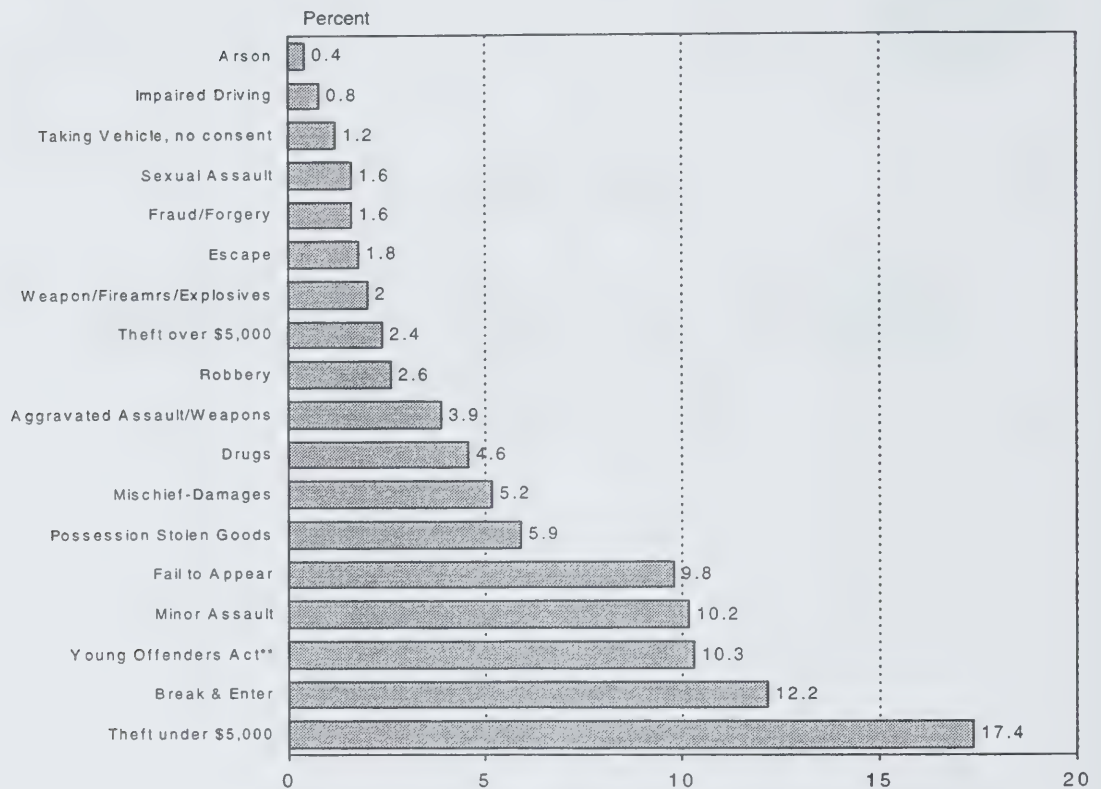


## **SECTION 5:**

# **YOUTH COURT ACTIVITY IN CANADA**

Figure 5.1

### Distribution of Selected Cases Heard in Youth Court by Type of Offence\*, Canada, 1996-97



\* Type of offence refers to the principal (most serious) charge. The cases displayed represent 93% of all youth court cases.

\*\* Offences include failure to comply with a disposition or undertaking, contempt against youth court and assist/interfere/other.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

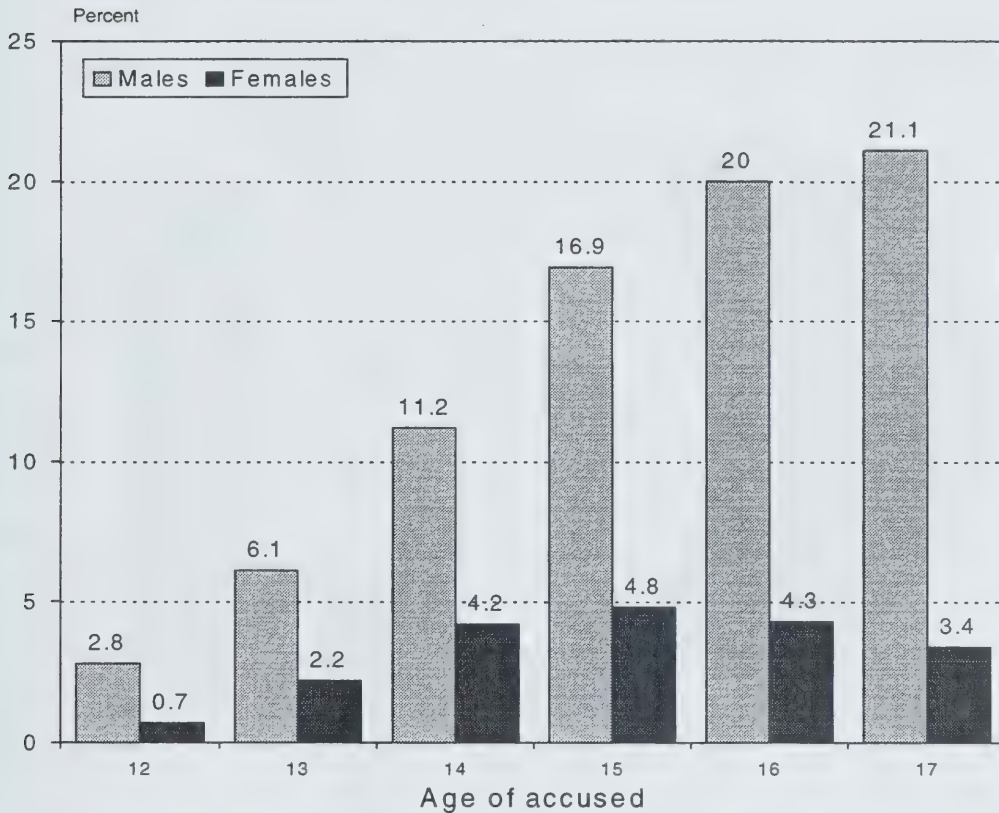
For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- In 1996-97, youth courts heard 110,065 cases involving 208,594 federal offences. Almost 50% of the caseload were related to property offences while 21% involved violent offences (offences against the person).
- Between 1992-93 and 1996-97, the overall youth court caseload declined by 4.4%, while several major category of crime increased. Violent crime cases, Young Offenders Act cases and drug cases all increased (6.4%, 15.9% and 129.6% respectively). In contrast, property crime cases decreased by 17.1% while the number of other Criminal Code cases varied little during this period.



Figure 5.2

### Youth Court Cases\* by Age and Sex of Accused, Canada, 1996-97

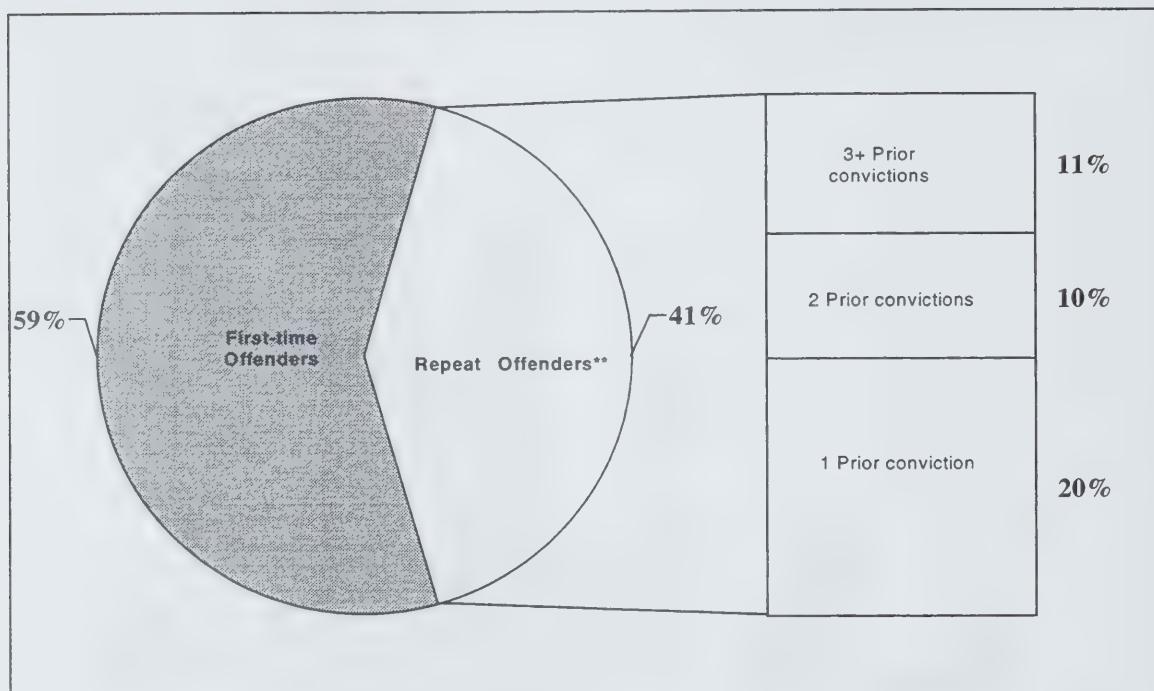


\* There were 2,491 cases (2%) in which the age of the youth was under 12, over 17, or unknown.  
 Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
 For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- In 1996-97, approximately 80% of youths appearing in court were males.
- Male involvement in crime tended to increase with age while female involvement peaked at 15 years of age.
- About 49% of the court caseload involved youths aged 16 to 17 years; 37% involved 14 and 15 year olds; and 12% involved 12 and 13 year olds.

Figure 5.3

### Youth Court Cases by Offender Type and Number of Prior Convictions, 1996-97\*



\* Data exclude Nova Scotia and post-disposition administrative offences.

\*\* Repeat offenders were determined through counts of cases with guilty findings heard in 1996-97 involving young persons for whom one or more earlier charges resulted in a finding of guilt from a youth court in the same province or territory.

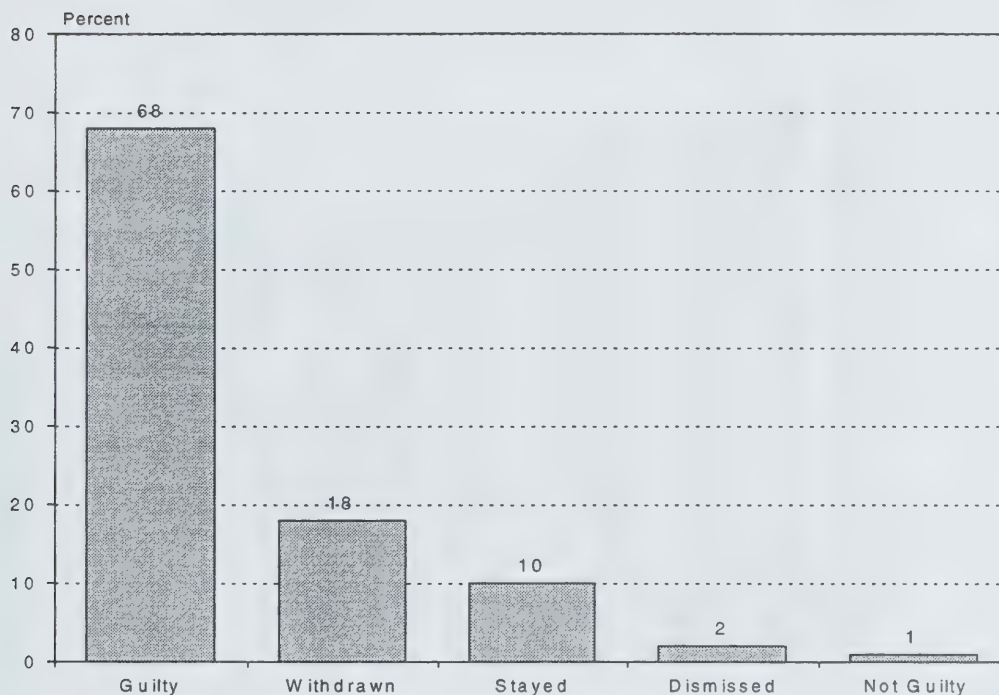
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- Cases involving males had a higher proportion of prior convictions: 43% as compared to 32% of cases for females.
- Repeat offenders do not appear to be convicted for more serious offences than first-time offenders. For example, about 23% of the repeat offender cases received a conviction for a violent offence as the most serious offence, compared to 28% of first-time offenders.
- Repeat young offenders received increasingly harsher sentences from youth court as the number of prior convictions increased.

Figure 5.4

### Distribution of Cases Heard in Youth Courts By Most Serious Decision, Canada, 1996-97

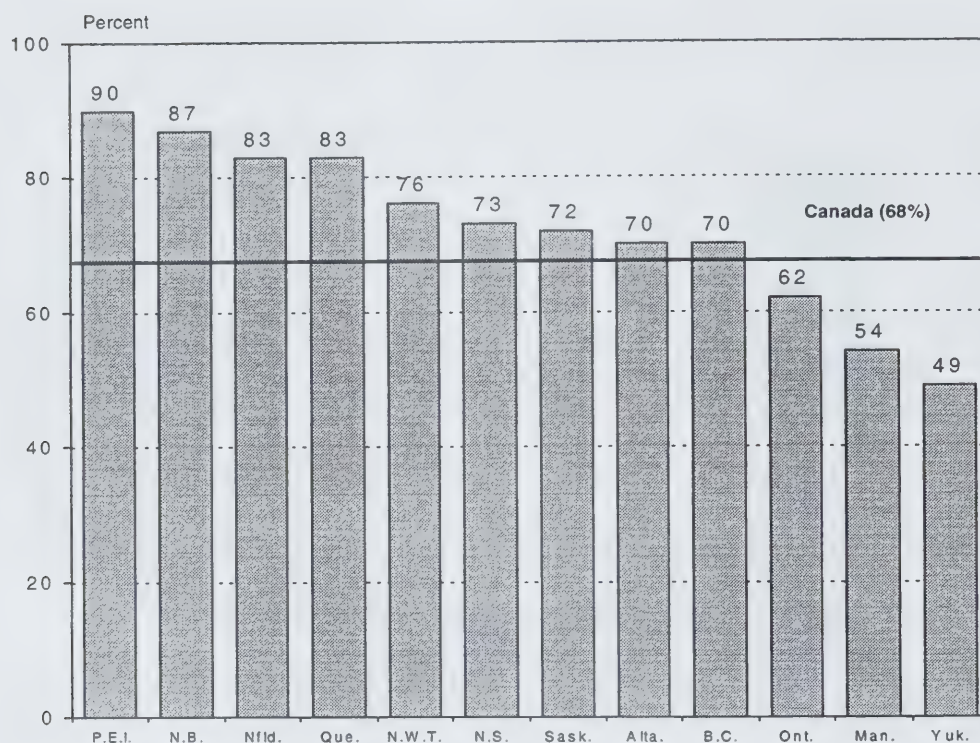


Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- About two-thirds of cases heard in youth courts resulted in a finding of guilt for at least one charge.
- Cases involving motor vehicle theft, impaired driving/traffic crime, and breaking and entering resulted most often in a finding of guilt, (75%, 76% and 77% respectively). Cases less likely to result in a finding of guilt include theft (64%), aggravated/weapon assault (62%), robbery (62%) and sexual assault offences (56%).
- Less than 0.3% of all cases were transferred to adult court (92) or to another province/territory (183).
- Of all cases transferred to adult court, 57% involved violent offences, and 29% involved property offences. (This represents a total of 52 violent offence cases and 27 property offence cases).

Figure 5.5

### Youth Court Cases with Guilty Findings, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1996-97



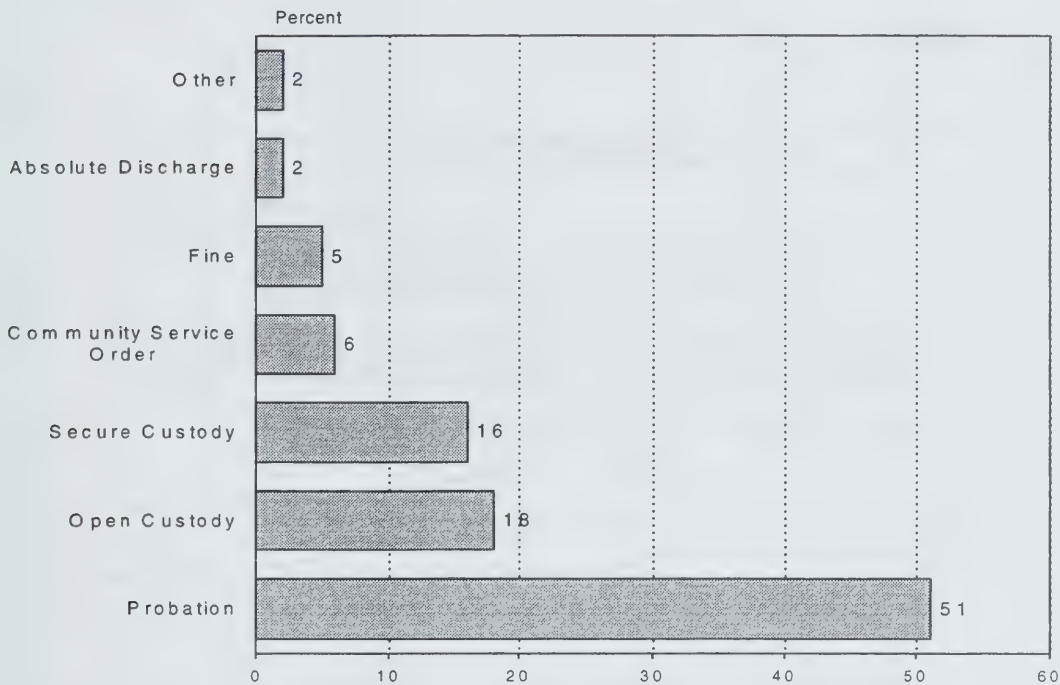
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- In 1996-97, the proportion of cases resulting in a guilty finding ranged from 90% in Prince Edward Island to 49% in Yukon.
- One reason for this variation across jurisdictions is the proportion of cases that are stayed or withdrawn. For instance, Manitoba recorded the highest proportion of cases stayed (44%) and Ontario reported 27% of cases withdrawn. The high proportions in these two provinces were partially due to charges being stayed or withdrawn pending the completion of alternative measures programs.



Figure 5.6

### Distribution of Cases Heard in Youth Courts that Resulted in a Finding of Guilt by Most Serious Disposition, Canada, 1996-97

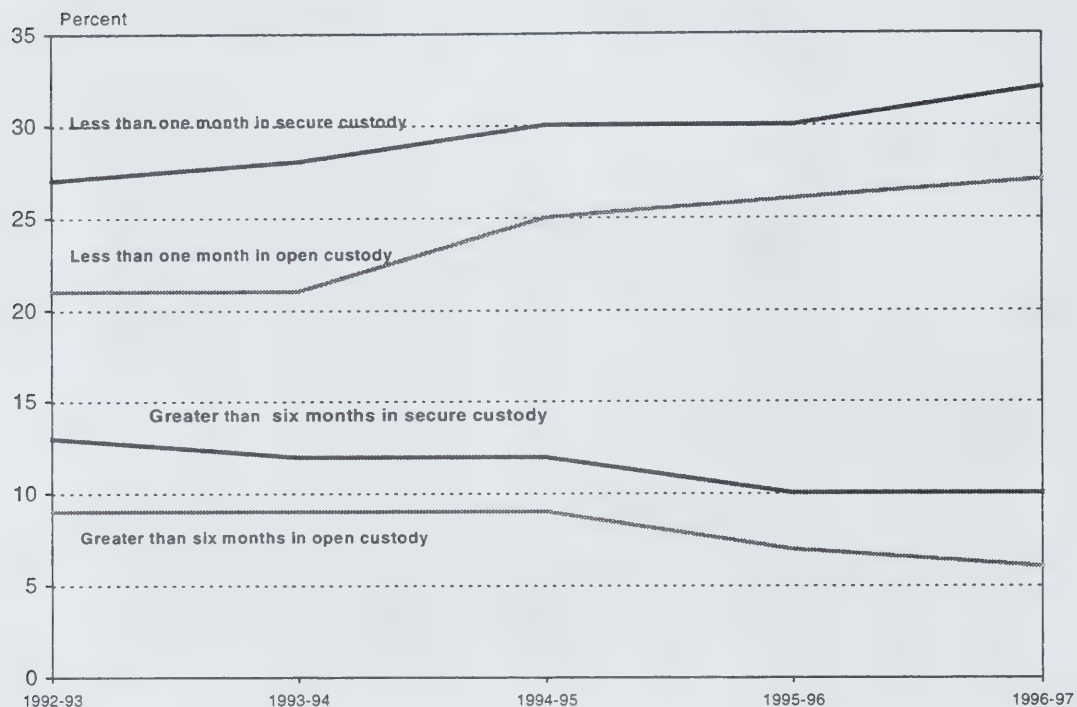


Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- In 1996-97, probation was the most serious disposition in 51% of cases with a finding of guilt.
- Community Service Orders are often used in conjunction with other dispositions: 30% of all cases resulting in a conviction included a Community Service Order.
- A case may result in more than one disposition. In 1996-97, 52% of all cases with a conviction involved only one disposition, 40% resulted in two dispositions, and 8% involved three or more dispositions.
- Custody for the most serious disposition was ordered for one third (34%) of cases with convictions. Since 1992-93, the number of cases where custody was ordered increased by 5%, while the number of probation cases increased by 21%.

Figure 5.7

# Youth Court Cases, Length of Custodial Dispositions\*, Canada, 1992-93 to 1996-97



\*Custodial dispositions refer to secure and open custody.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 (catalogue 85-522).

- The number of cases with shorter custodial sentences has increased since 1992-93.
- Of the total cases ordered to open custody in 1992-93, 21% were for terms of less than one month, compared to 27% in 1996-97.
- For secure custody cases, the proportion with orders of less than one month increased from 27% in 1992-93 to 32% in 1996-97.



## **SECTION 6:**

# **CORRECTIONAL POPULATION IN CANADA**





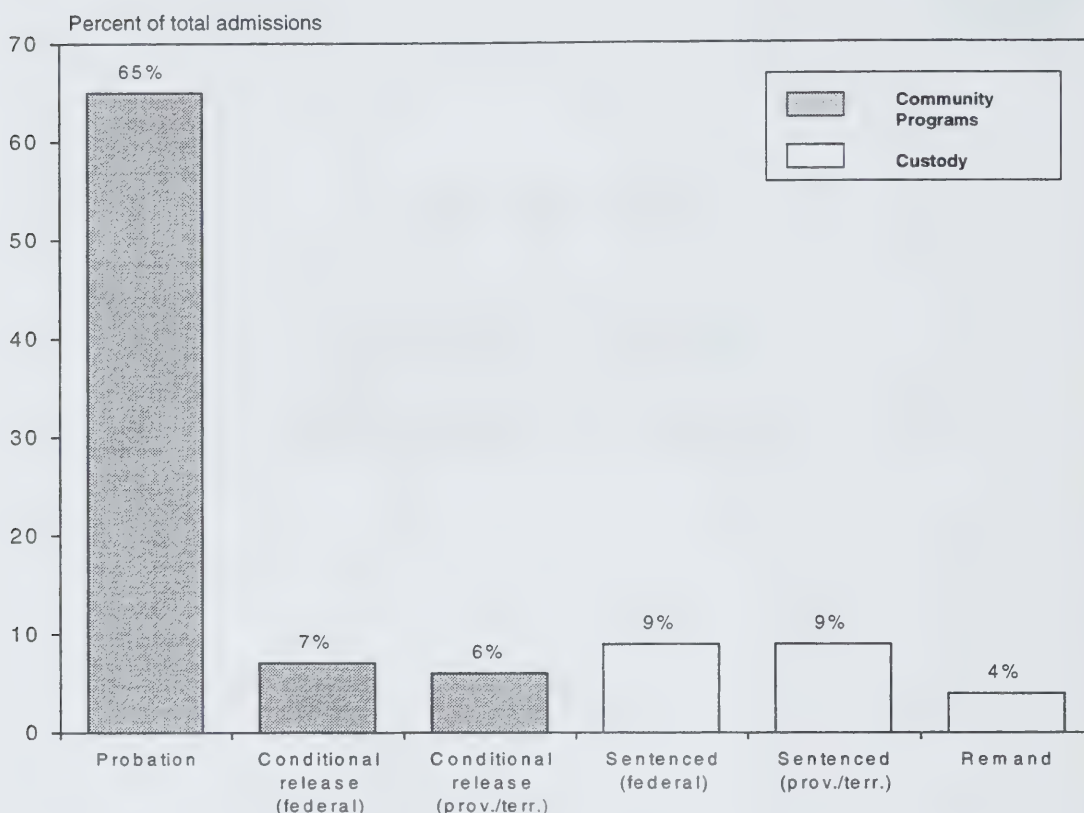


## **SECTION 6A:**

# **CUSTODIAL POPULATION**

Figure 6.1

## Average Adult Correctional Populations in Canada, 1996-97

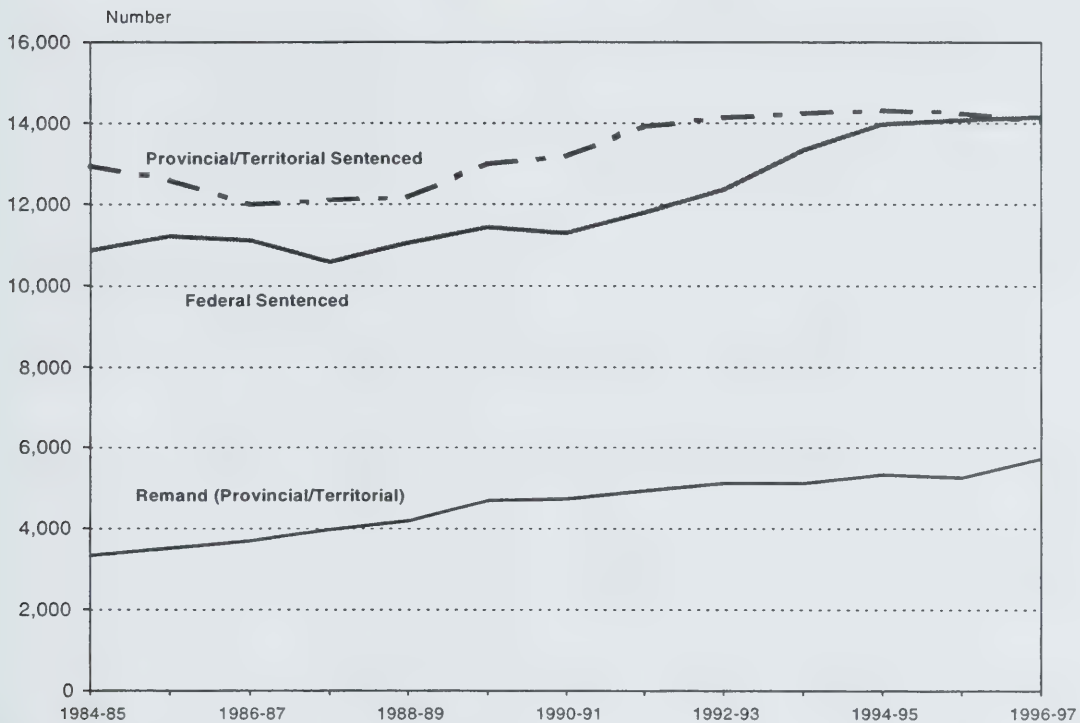


Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- On any given day during 1996-97, an average of 151,850 adult offenders were under the direct care or supervision of correctional agencies in Canada.
- During this period, almost one-quarter (22%) of the correctional population was in custody, while the remaining three-quarters were on either conditional release or probation.
- After nearly a decade of rapid growth, Canada's adult correctional population has stabilized since 1993-94.

Figure 6.2

### Average Adult Custodial Counts by Type, 1984-85 to 1996-97



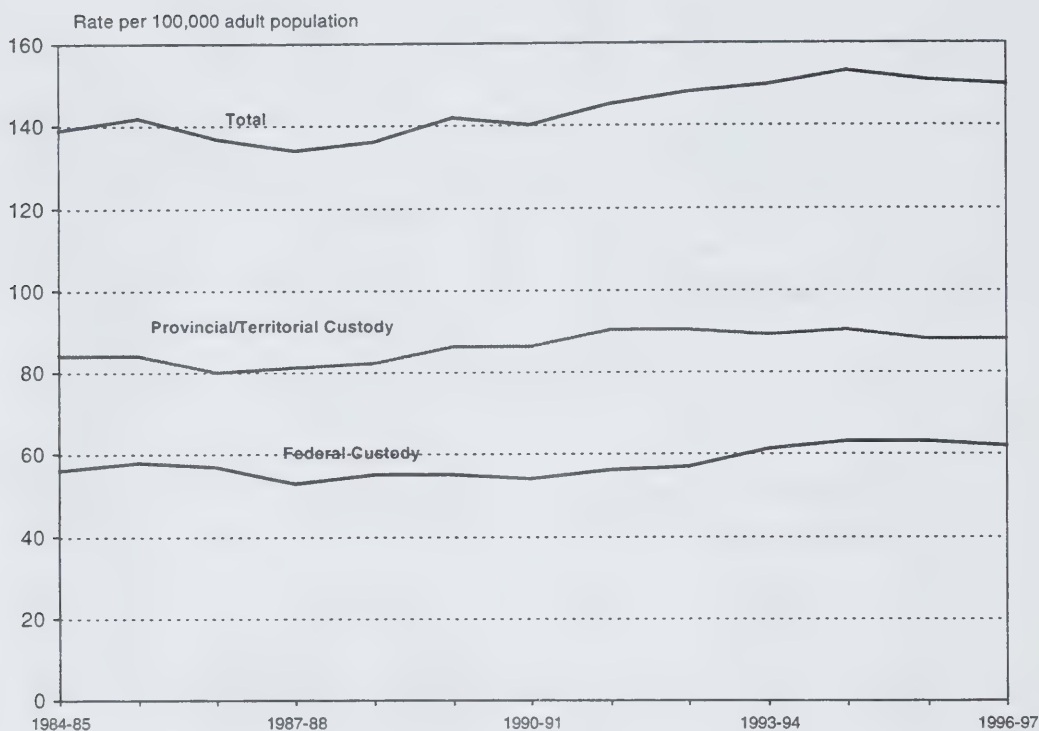
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- The average number of provincial/territorial sentenced offenders decreased in the second and third year to a low of close to 12,000 offenders. From 1987-88 to 1994-95, the average count increased steadily, and in the last two years, the number of offenders has once again started to decrease.
- In 1996-97, there was an average of 14,036 sentenced offenders in provincial/territorial custody, a 4% increase since 1984-85 (13,467 offenders).
- Federal offender counts for 1996-97 have increased by 30% since 1984-85 (10,856 offenders). The average count has fluctuated during the period under review. The largest increase (+8%) occurred between 1992-93 and 1993-94 while the largest year to year decrease was between 1986-87 to 1987-88.
- Average remand counts increased by 9% in 1996-97 from the previous fiscal year. Since 1984-85, remand counts have almost doubled to reach 5,737 in 1996-97.

Figure 6.3

### Incarceration Rate\* per 100,000 Adult Population, 1984-85 to 1996-97



\*Number of adults in custody per 100,000 adult population.

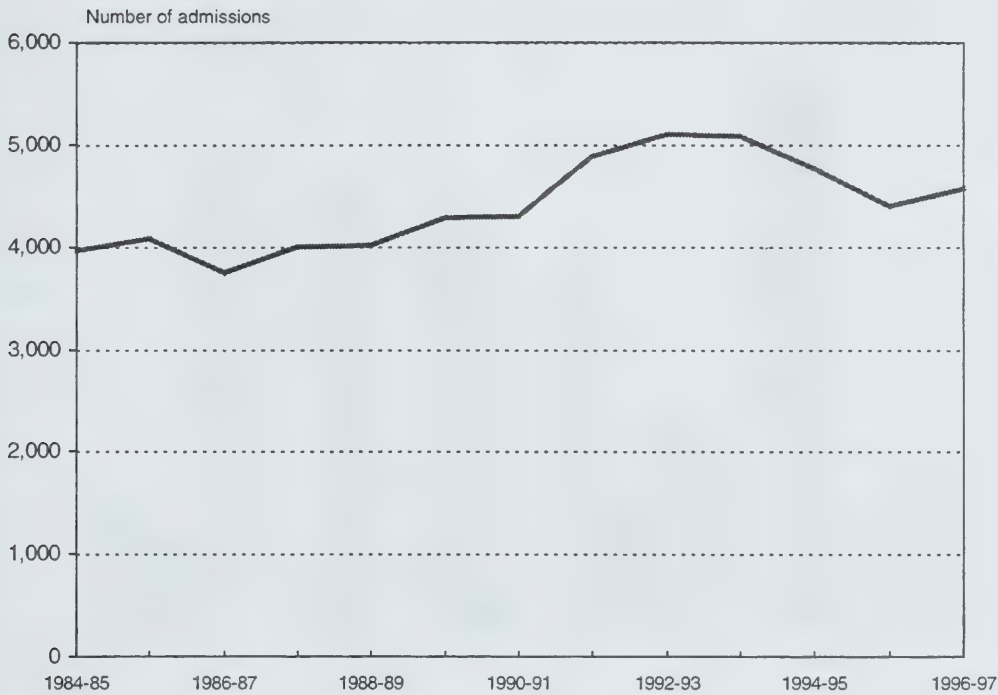
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- For the second year in a row, there has been a decrease in the total adult incarceration rate. Between 1990-91 and 1994-95 the national incarceration rate increased steadily from 140 inmates to 153 inmates per 100,000 population. However, in 1995-96 the incarceration rate decreased 1.3% (from 153 per 100,000 population to 151 per 100,000 population). In 1996-97, the rate of incarceration decreased to 150 per 100,000 population.
- While 1987-88 showed the lowest incarceration rate since 1984-85 (134 per 100,000 population), 1994-95 showed the highest (153 per 100,000 population).
- Between 1984-85 and 1995-96, there has been an average annual increase of 0.7% in Canada's total incarceration rate (federal and provincial/territorial combined). The largest year-to-year increase occurred between 1988-89 and 1989-90 when the rate rose from 136 to 142 adults in custody per 100,000 adults (+4.4%).

Figure 6.4

## Sentenced Admissions to Federal Custody, Canada, 1984-85 to 1996-97



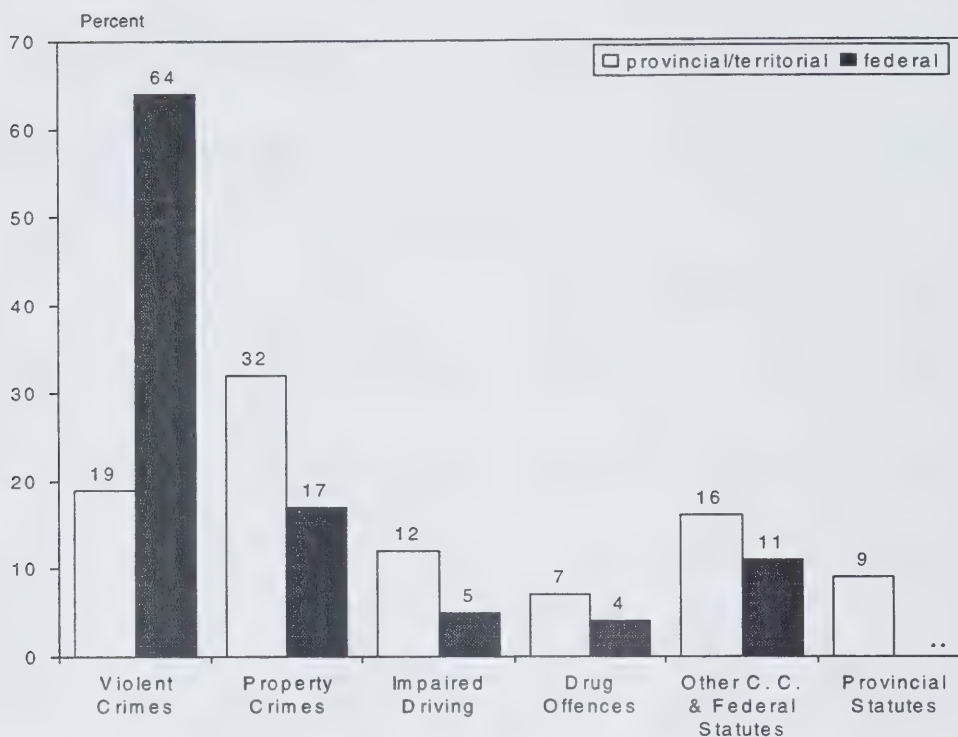
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97, there were 4,569 sentenced admissions to federal custody, an increase of 15% since 1984-85. Between 1992-93 and 1996-97, the number of sentenced offenders has decreased by 18%.
- Between 1992-93 and 1994-95, the average sentence length for offenders serving a sentence in federal custody (excluding life sentences) increased slightly from 43.4 months to 44.0 months, and in the last two years decreased slightly to reach 43.1 months (3.6 years).



Figure 6.5

### Most Serious Offence Committed on Admission to Custody\*, 1996-97



.. Data not available.

\* In Canada, offenders sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment which is less than 2 years, are the exclusive responsibility of provincial or territorial correctional services. Those sentenced to 2 years or more are the responsibility of federal correctional services.

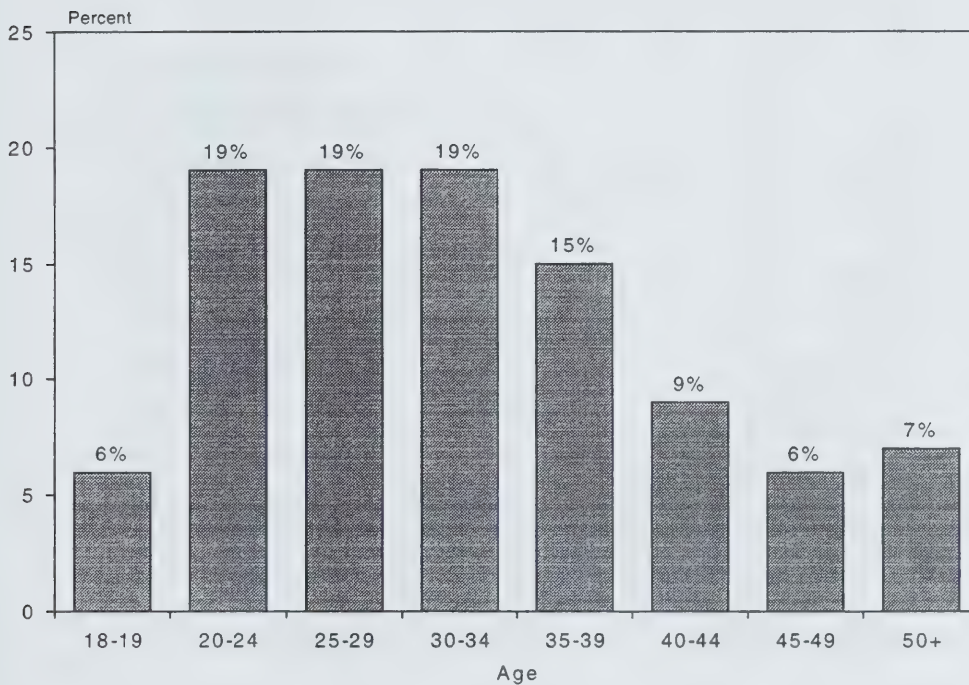
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- Almost one-third of provincially/territorially sentenced admissions were for offenders convicted of property offences (32%). The next largest group of provincially/territorially sentenced offenders were sentenced for crimes of violence (19%), followed by other Criminal Code and federal statutes (16%) and impaired driving offences (12%).
- Almost two-thirds (64%) of all federal admissions in 1996-97 were for offenders serving a sentence for a violent crime. Offenders serving a sentence for property crimes accounted for 17% of federal admissions, followed by offenders convicted for other Criminal Code and Federal Statute offences (11%), impaired driving offences (5%) and drug offences (4%).

Figure 6.6

### Age of Offenders Admitted to Federal Custody, Canada, 1996-97

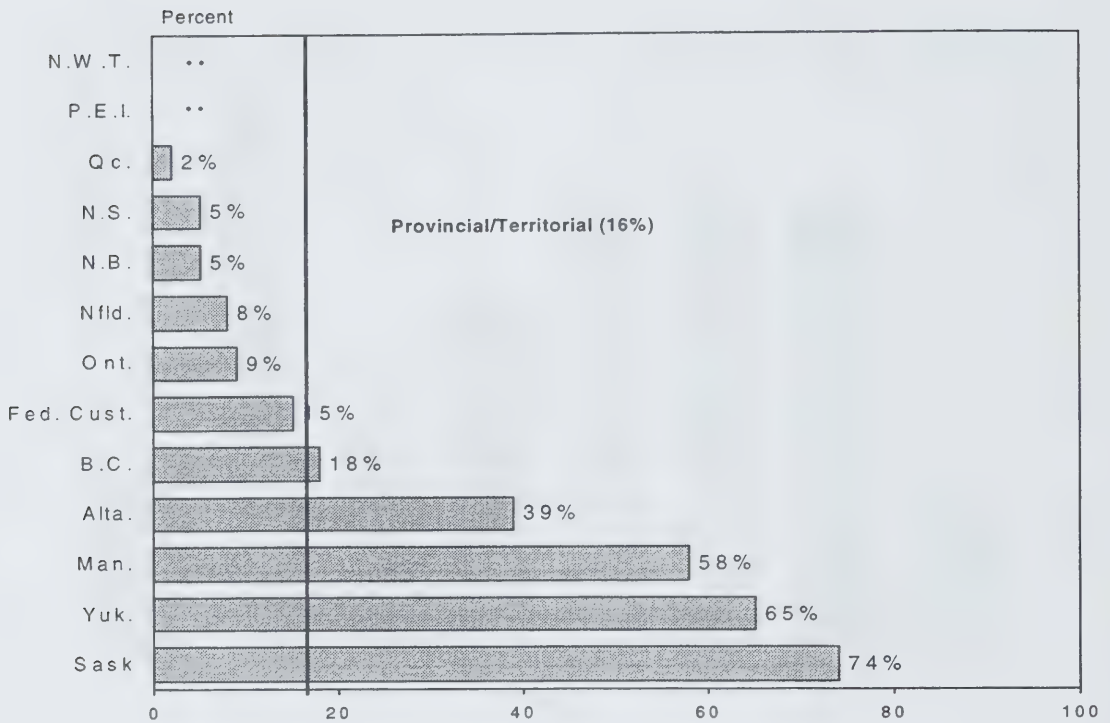


Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97, persons in their twenties made up the largest proportion (38%) of those admitted to federal custody.
- In 1996-97, the average age for a federal inmate upon admission was 36 years.
- The population being sentenced to federal custody has been aging. The proportion of those aged 35 and over on admission has grown from 23% in 1986-87 to 37% in 1996-97.

Figure 6.7

### Sentenced Offenders Admitted to Custody who are Aboriginal Peoples by Jurisdiction, 1996-97



.. Data not available.

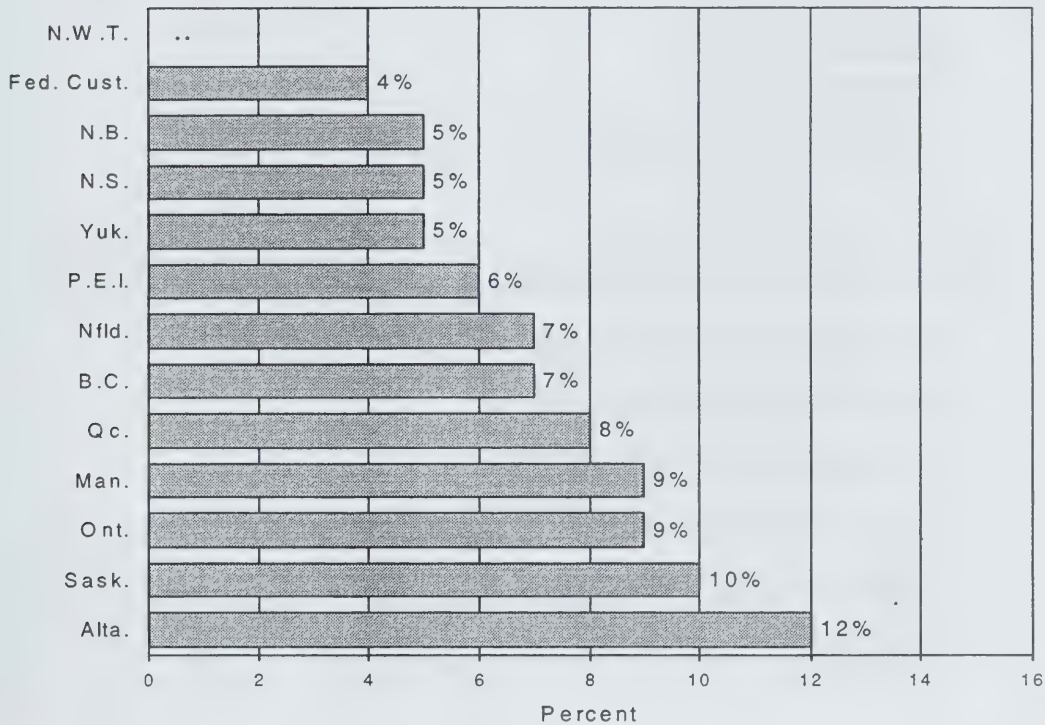
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97, 15% of federal admissions to custody in Canada were Aboriginal Peoples. Over the last five years, the number of Aboriginal offenders in federal custody increased by 2%.
- Aboriginal peoples, make up 3% of Canada's adult population and have long been over-represented in the corrections population.
- In the provincial/territorial facilities during 1996-97, 16% of sentenced offenders were Aboriginal Peoples. Saskatchewan (74%) accounted for the largest Aboriginal offender population followed by the Yukon (65%) and Manitoba (58%). Quebec (2%) reported the smallest Aboriginal offender population. The provincial/territorial Aboriginal offender population increased to 18% in 1993-94 but has been decreasing steadily in the last three years.

Figure 6.8

### Females Admitted to Provincial/Territorial and Federal Facilities, 1996-97



.. Data not available.

Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

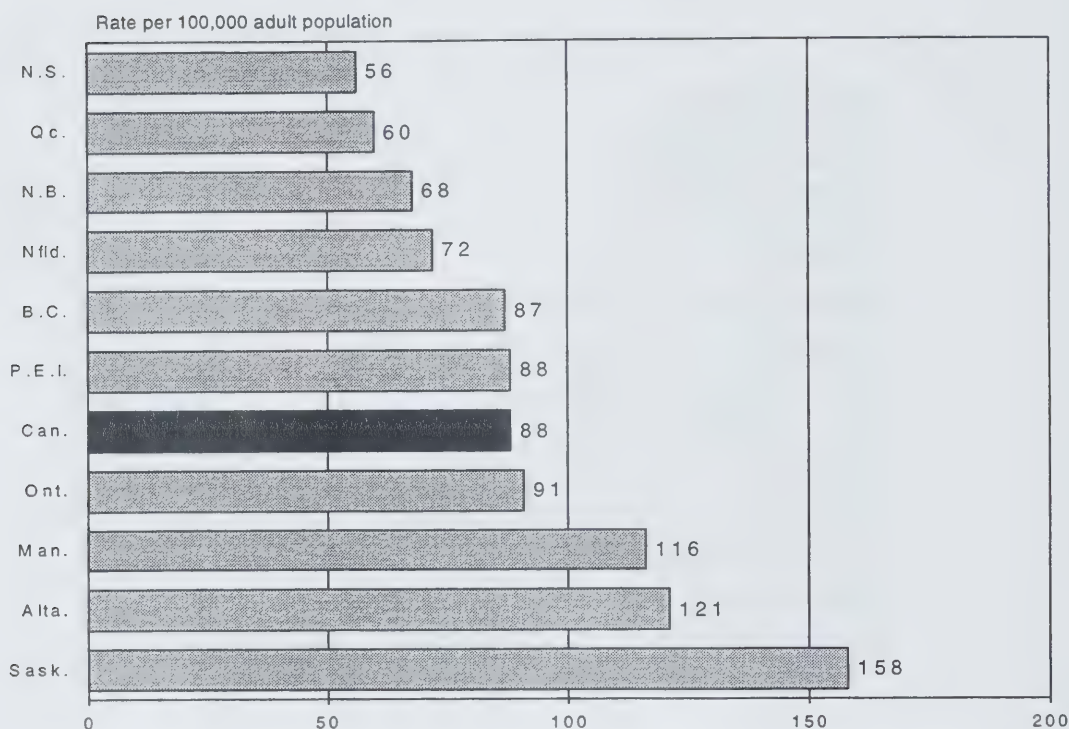
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97, females accounted for 9% of all provincial/territorial sentenced admissions to custody and 4% of all federal sentenced admissions. Only two jurisdictions, Alberta (12%) and Saskatchewan (10%) reported admissions of females above the provincial/territorial average.
- Overall, the proportion of federal and provincial/territorial female admissions has remained relatively unchanged in recent years.



Figure 6.9

### Incarceration Rate(Provincial)\* per 100,000 Adult Population by Province/Territory, 1996-97



\* Number of adults in provincial/territorial custody per 100,000 adult population.

Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- On an average day in 1996-97, there were 20,024 adult offenders in provincial/territorial custody, or 88 adults per 100,000 adult population.
- The highest rates in 1996-97, were found in the Yukon (310 adults per 100,000 adult population) and Northwest Territories (815 adults per 100,000 adult population), but these two jurisdictions tend to reflect extreme values due to their small population.
- Among the remaining jurisdictions, Nova Scotia showed the lowest incarceration rate, followed by Quebec. Saskatchewan showed the highest incarceration rate, followed by Alberta and Manitoba.



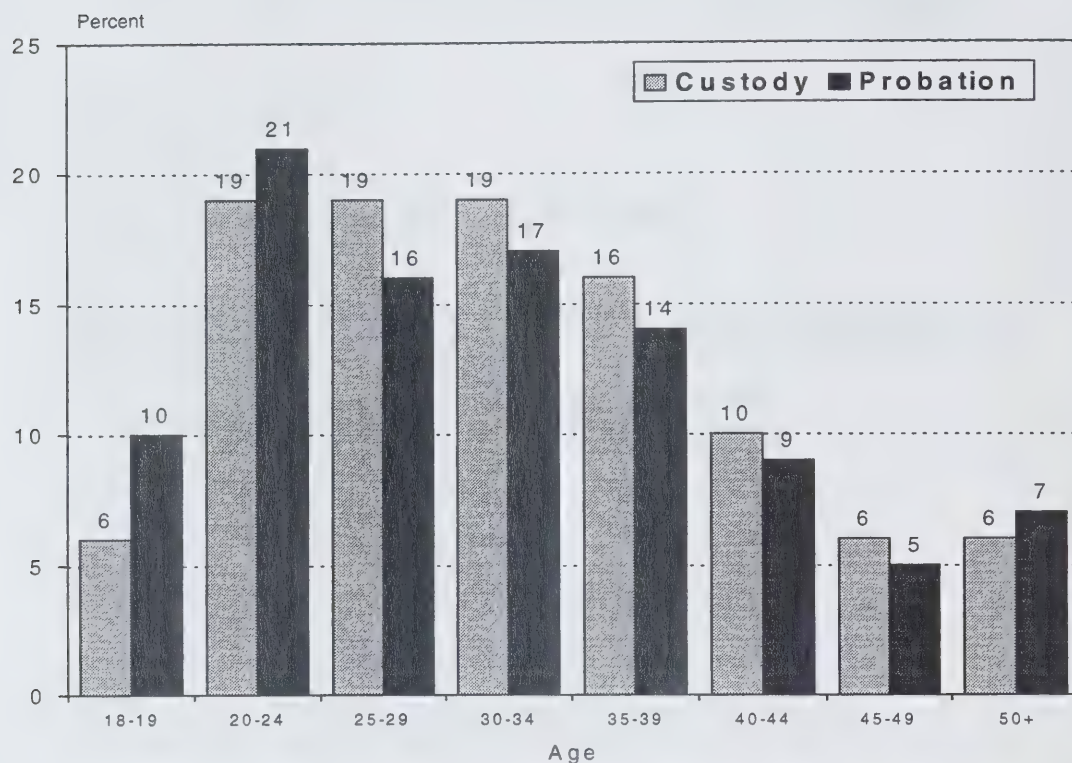


## **SECTION 6B:**

# **COMMUNITY SUPERVISION POPULATION**

Figure 6.10

## Age of Provincial/Territorial Probationers, 1996-97



\* Percentages may not add to 100% because of number rounding.

Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.  
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97, persons in their twenties made up the largest proportion (38%) of those admitted to provincial/territorial custody. Many more young people aged 18-24 were serving a probation order in the community than those serving sentences in custody (30% vs. 25%).
- The median age of offenders on probation was 31 years, the same as for sentenced inmates.
- Probationers aged 18 to 24 have been decreasing steadily. In 1992-93, 37% of probationers were between the ages of 18 and 24 compared to 30% in 1996-97.

Catalogue 85F00I8XPE

## **ERRATA**

After the printing of this report, an error was detected in the English version:

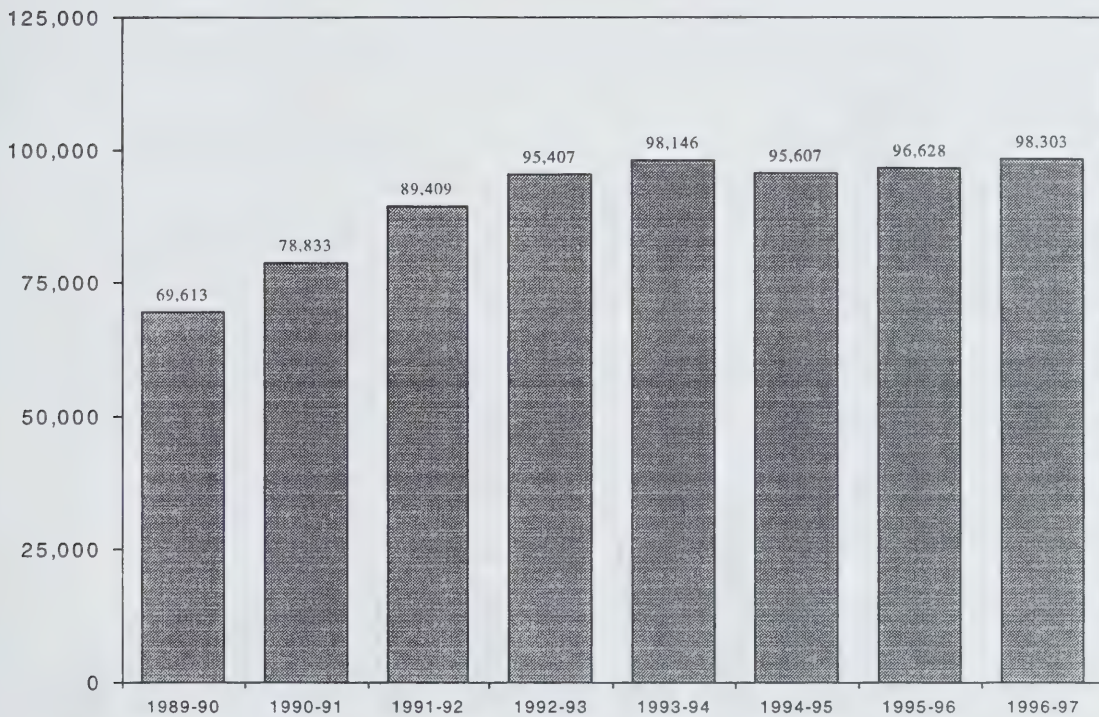
Page 81 first paragraph reads **decreased by 2%**

Should read **increased by 2%**.



Figure 6.11

## Average Probation Counts, 1989-90 to 1996-97



Data from Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories have been excluded from all years.

Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

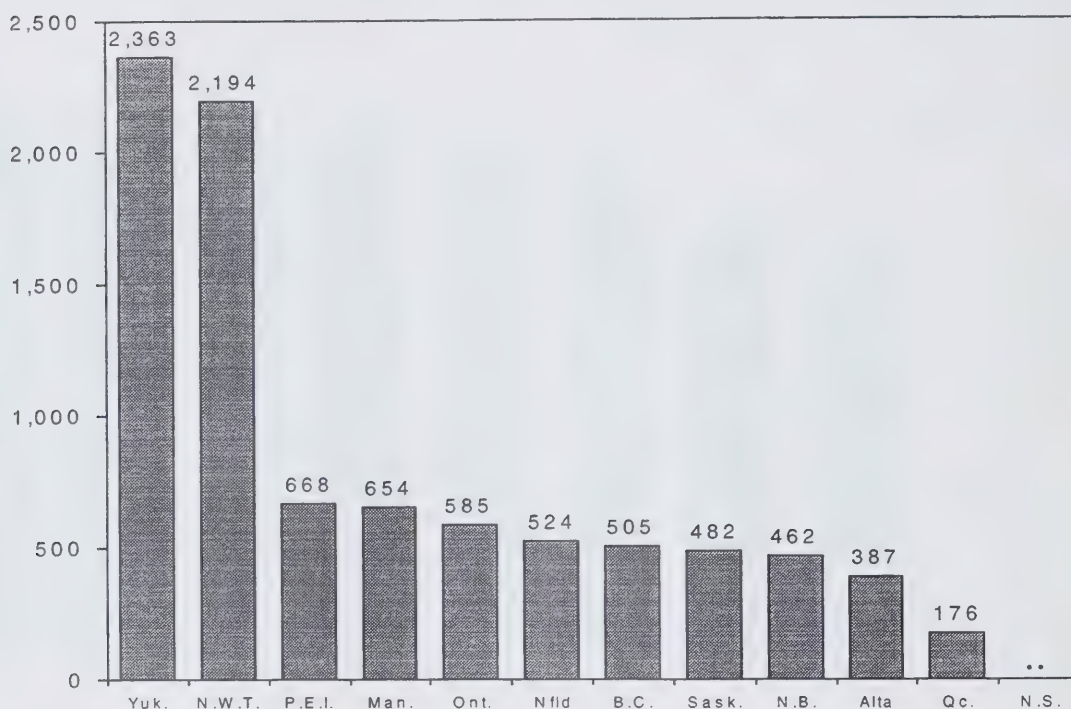
For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97 the average probation count decreased by 2%, from 1995-96. Since 1989-90, probation counts have increased by 41%. Average probation counts represent the monthly average number of offenders being supervised on probation in the community.
- From 1989-90 to 1993-94, probation counts increased an average of 9.1% every year. The first decrease appeared in 1994-95 (-2.6%).



Figure 6.12

### Probation Rates per 100,000 Adult Population, Provinces/Territories, 1996-97



.. Data not available.

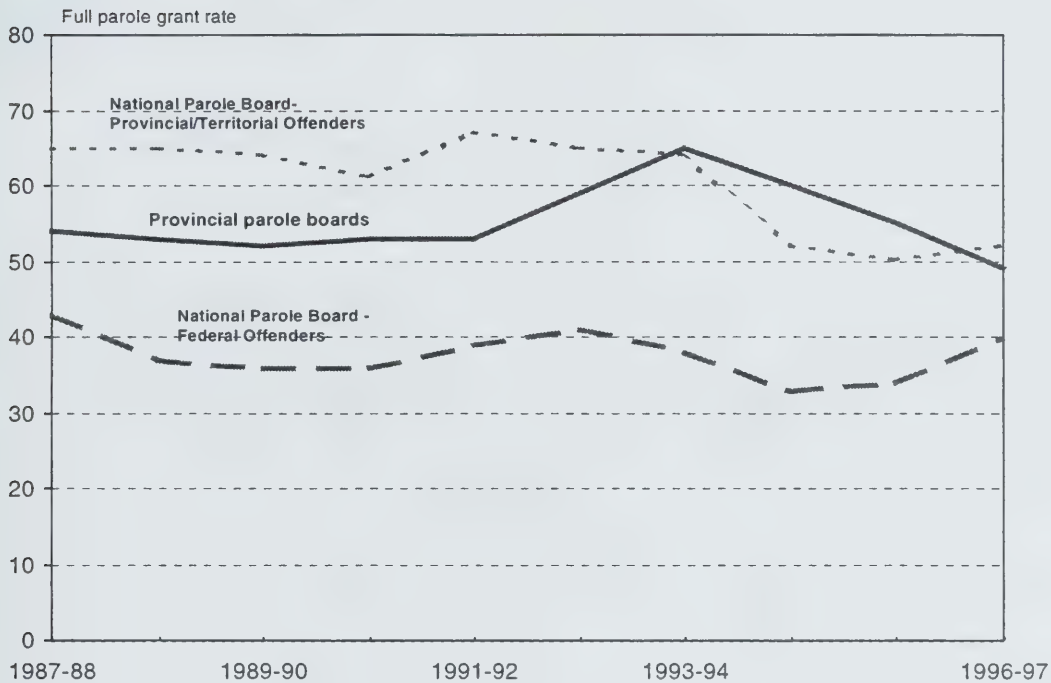
Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- In 1996-97 on any given day, there were close to 99,300 offenders on probation, or 450 probationers per 100,000 adult population.
- The Yukon (2,363 per 100,000 adult population) and the Northwest Territories (2,194 per 100,000 adult population) showed the largest probation rate. Among the provinces, Quebec reported the lowest probation rate (176 per 100,000 adult population), followed by Alberta (387 per 100,000 adult population).

Figure 6.13

# Federal and Provincial\* Full Parole\*\* Grant Rate, 1987-88 to 1996-97



\* Parole Boards – Three provinces have full-functioning parole boards: Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia operate boards that have jurisdiction for all offenders in their provincial jurisdictions. The National Parole Board has jurisdiction over all offenders sentenced to a penitentiary (a sentence of two years or more) and offenders held in provincial and territorial correctional institutions where there are no provincial parole boards.

\*\* Full parole is a form of conditional release, granted at the discretion of paroling authorities-allowing offenders to serve part of their prison sentence in the community.

Source: Adult Corrections Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997.

For more information, see Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 (catalogue no. 85-211).

- For the third consecutive year, provincial full parole grant rates have declined. In 1996-97, the overall provincial parole rate was 49%, down from 65% in 1993-94.
- In contrast, the parole grant rate for federal offenders has increased over the past two years. In 1996-97, 40% of federal full parole applications to the National Parole Board (NPB) were granted. This is up from 34% the year before and from 37% in 1993-94.
- The parole grant rate for provincial/territorial offenders has decreased since 1993-94. The NPB granted full parole to 52% of applications, a 2% increase from the previous year, but down from 64% in 1993-94.



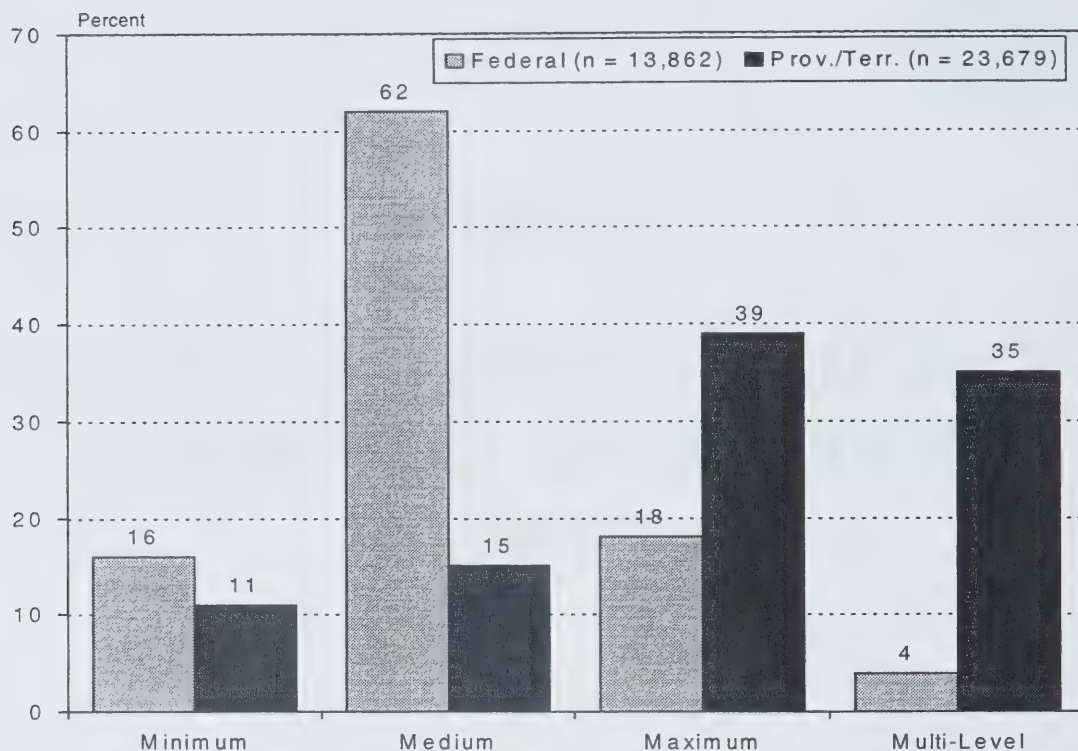


**SECTION 6C:**

**ONE DAY PROFILE OF ADULT  
OFFENDERS, OCTOBER 5,  
1996**

Figure 6.14

## Distribution of Beds by Security Level of Facility



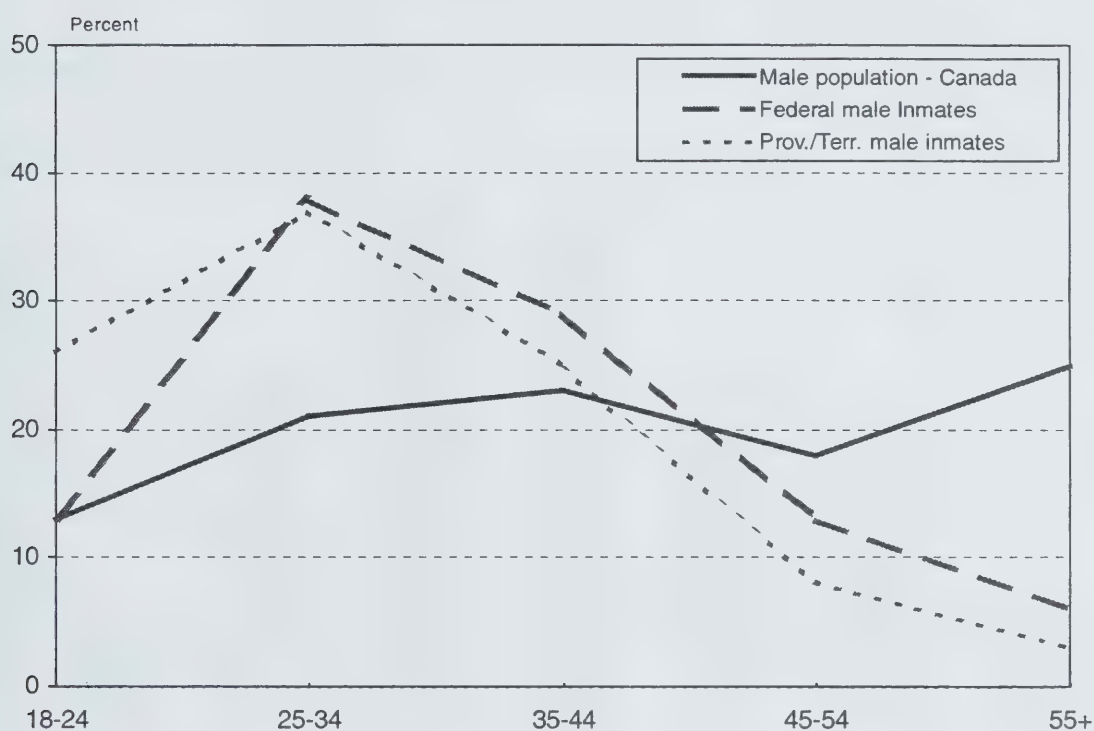
Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- On Snapshot Day, the majority of federal inmates (62%) were held in medium security facilities, while provincial/territorial inmates tended to be held in either multi-level (35%) or maximum security (39%) facilities.
- Only 15% of provincial/territorial inmates were housed in medium security, and 11% in minimum security facilities.



Figure 6.15

## Males - Age Distribution of Adult Population and Inmates

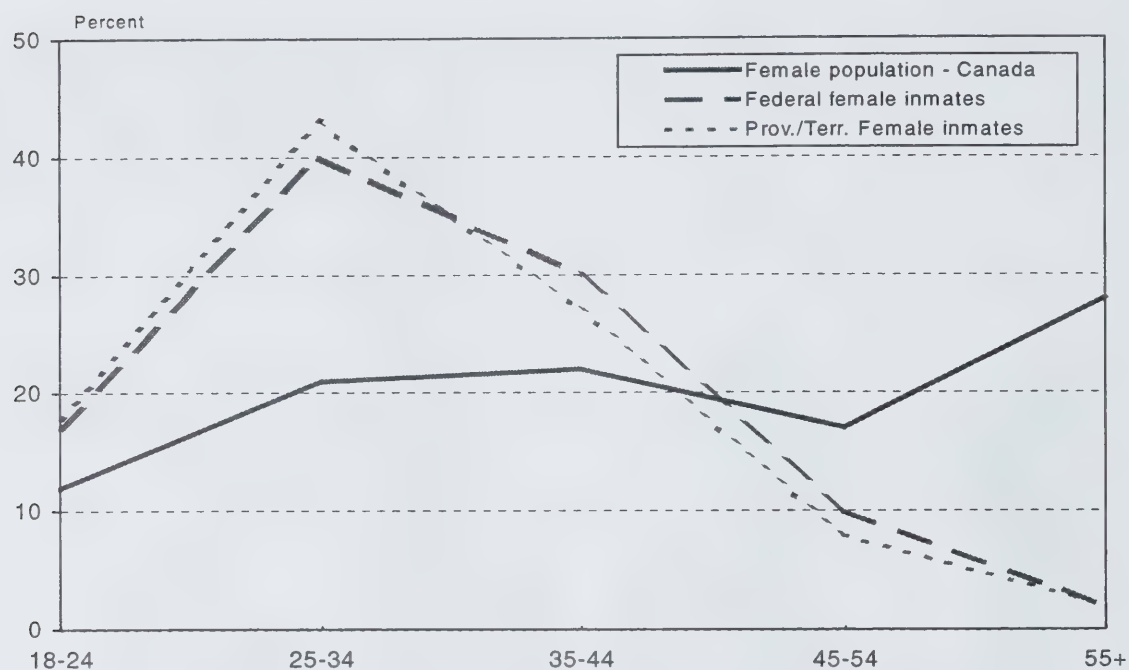


Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- Males between the ages of 25 and 34 were the most over-represented in correctional institutions, compared to the adult male population in Canada.
- On Snapshot Day, males aged 18-24 in the provincial/territorial facilities were the most over-represented (26% of the provincial/territorial inmates compared to 13% of adult male population in Canada).
- In federal facilities, 38% of male federal inmates were between 25-34 (compared to 21% of the adult male population in Canada).

Figure 6.16

## Females - Age Distribution of Adult Population and Inmates

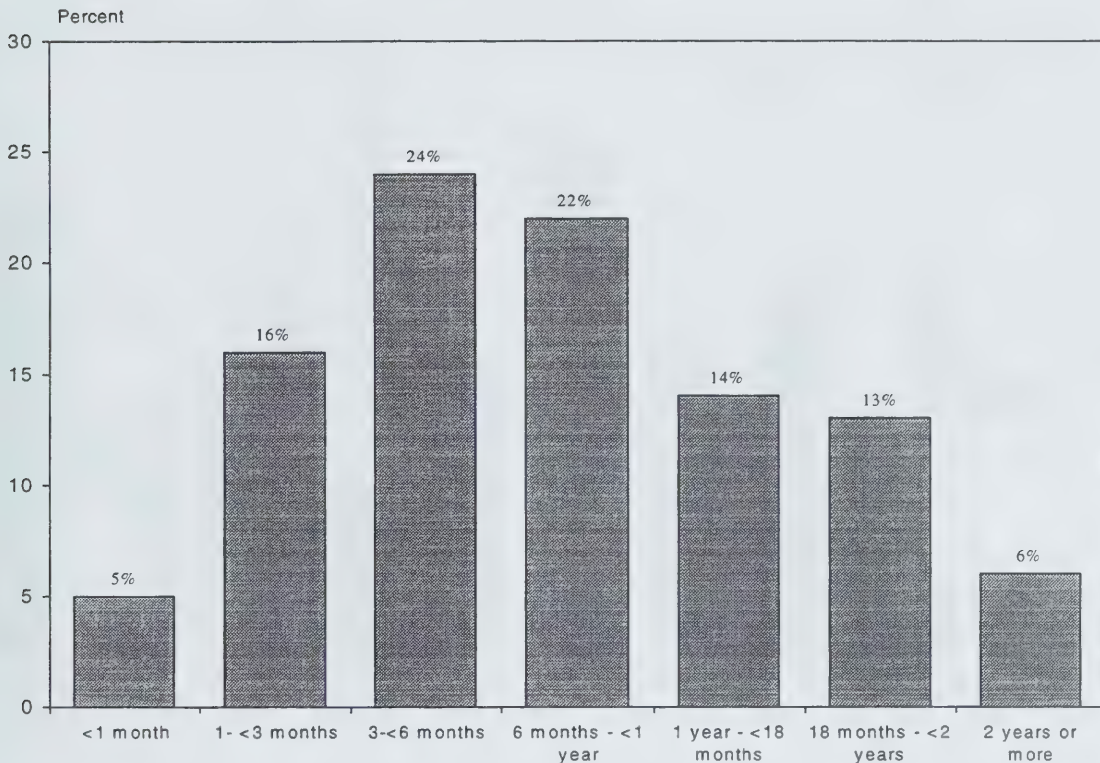


Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- On Snapshot Day, females aged 25-34 were the most over-represented in provincial/territorial facilities (43% compared to 21% of the adult female population in Canada).
- In federal facilities, 40% of female inmates were between 25-34, compared to 21% of the adult female population in Canada.

Figure 6.17

### Aggregate Sentence Length Distribution for Inmates in Provincial/Territorial Adult Correctional Facilities

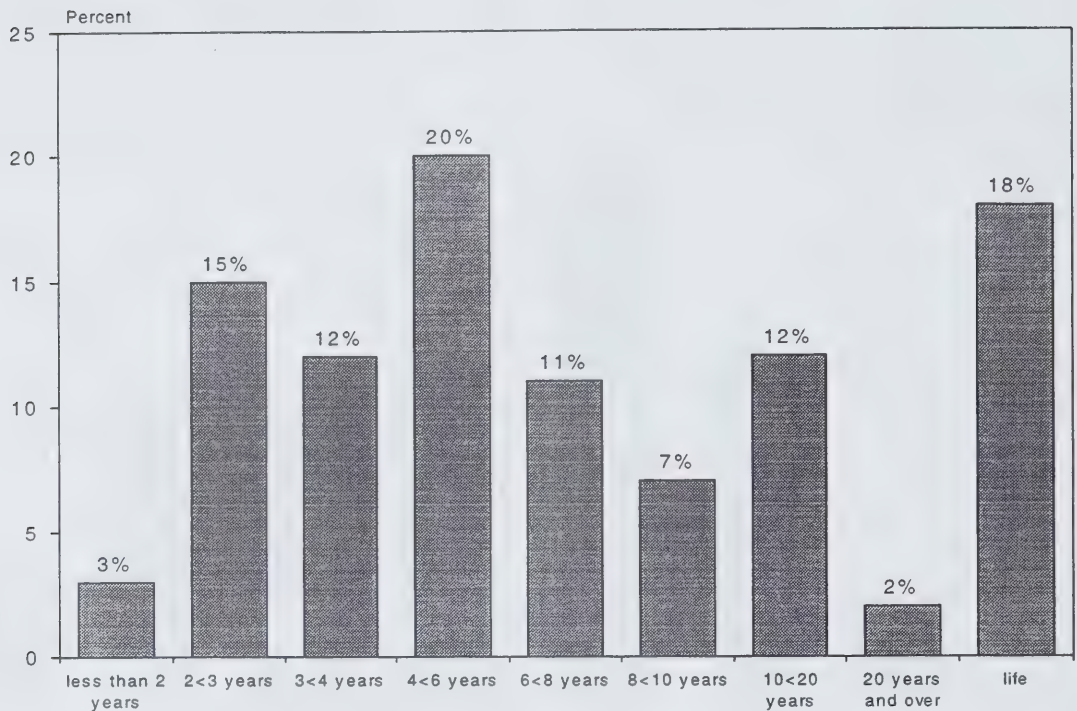


Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- An offender can be convicted of multiple charges in a single court disposition or in several court dispositions. In such cases, the judge may order that the various prison sentences be served either consecutively to (following), or concurrently with (at the same time as) one another. The "aggregate sentence" is the sum of all sentences that the offender must serve.
- On Snapshot Day, 45% of sentenced provincial/territorial inmates were serving prison terms of less than six months. A further 22% were serving terms of between 6 months and less than 1 year.
- The median sentence length was 184 days (approximately 6 months).

Figure 6.18

### Aggregate Sentence Length Distribution for Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities



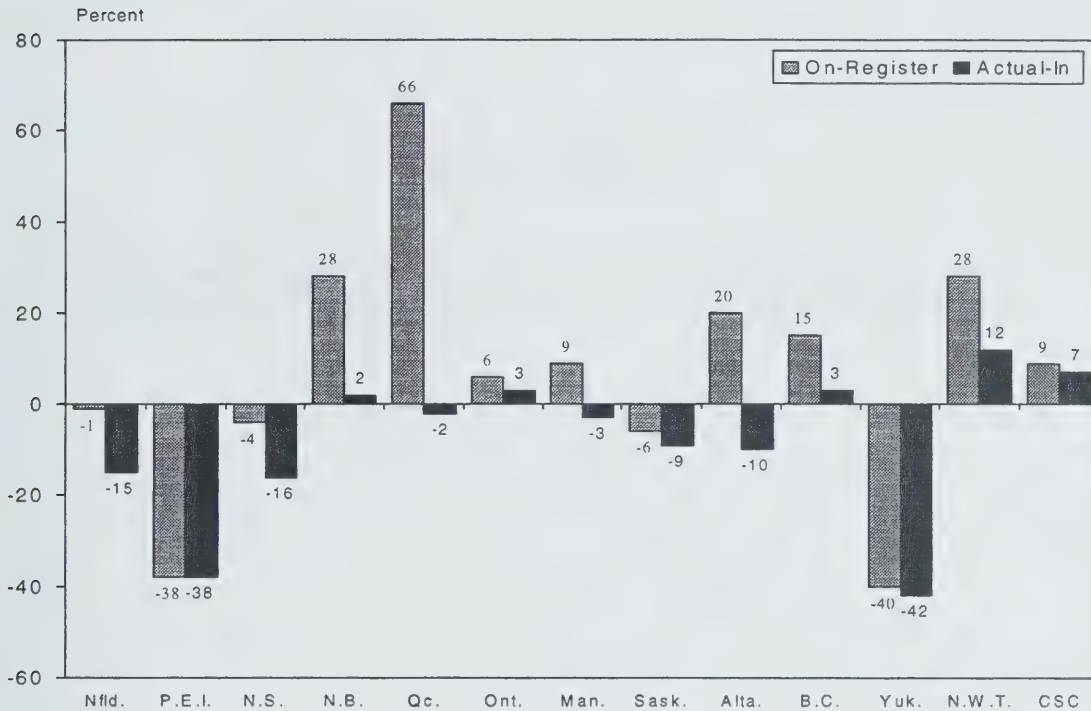
Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- One-half of all federal inmates on-register on Snapshot day were serving sentences of less than six years.
- Almost one-third (30%) of the inmates in federal facilities were serving prison terms of between six and 20 years.
- Of all the inmates in Canada's federal facilities on Snapshot Day, 18% were serving life imprisonment terms.
- Excluding those serving life sentences, the median sentence length was 1,787 days (approximately 5 years).



Figure 6.19

### On-Register and Actual-In Counts as a Percentage of Facility Capacity



Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- Based on the on-register populations (i.e., inmates who have been placed in a correctional facility to serve their sentence, including those who may not be physically located at the facility on Snapshot day), federal Correctional Services Canada (CSC) and seven of the provinces/territories reported over-capacity populations (i.e., more inmates than permanent beds in the facility), ranging from 6% over capacity in Ontario to 66% over-capacity in Quebec.
- When capacity was calculated based on the "actual-in" inmate populations (i.e., the actual number of inmates physically located in the correctional facility on Snapshot Day), the number of jurisdictions with over-capacity situations decreased. However, federal facilities were still operating over-capacity (7%), while four provincial/territorial facilities remained over-capacity.





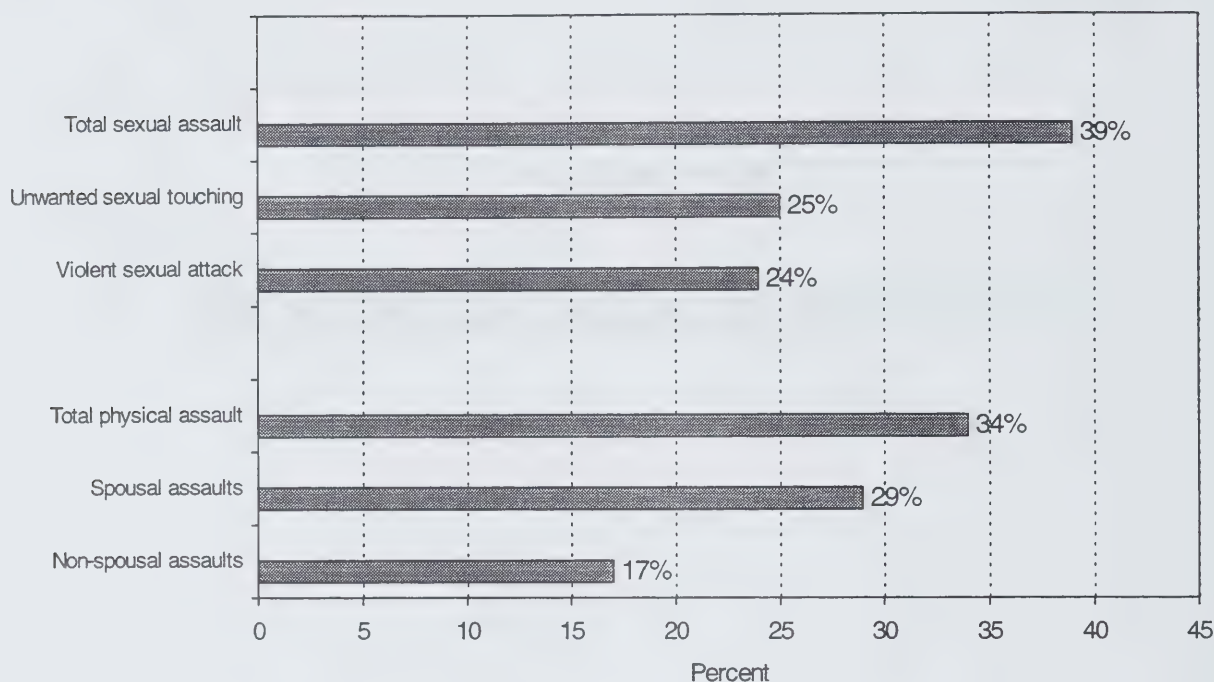


## **SECTION 7:**

# **VICTIMIZATION SURVEYS**

Figure 7.1

## Rates of Violence Against Women by Type\*, Canada, 1993



\* The proportion of women 18 years and older who experienced physical or sexual assault (as defined by the Canadian Criminal Code) by a man since the age of 16.

Sub-totals do not add to totals because of multiple responses.

Spouses include both marital and common-law partners.

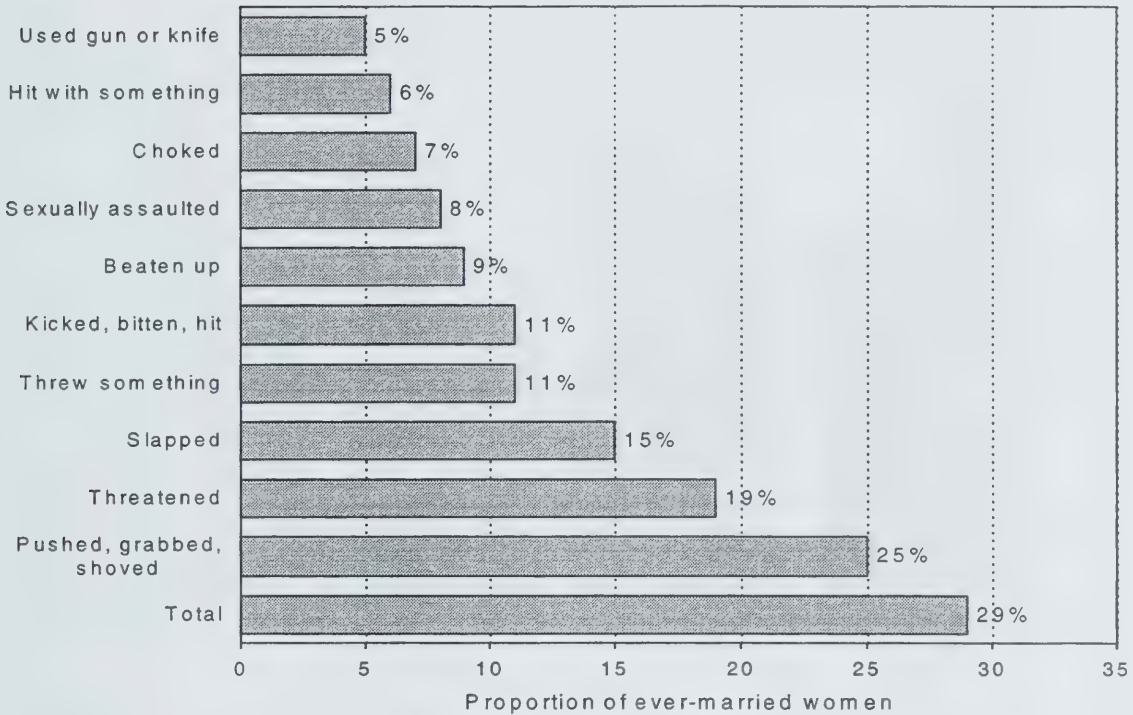
Source: Violence Against Women Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993.

For more information, see VAWS Survey Highlights 1993 (uncatalogued).

- According to the Violence Against Women Survey, in 1993, 51% of all Canadian women had experienced at least one incident of physical or sexual assault by a male assailant since the age of sixteen. Overall, these were more likely to be sexual assaults than physical assaults. Ten percent of women experienced an incident of violence during the year preceding the survey.
- Four-in-ten women were victims of sexual assault and were as likely to experience unwanted sexual touching as they were to experience more serious sexual attacks.
- One-in-three women were victims of physical assault, and were at higher risk of assaults by marital or common-law partners than by non-spouses.

Figure 7.2

### Spousal Violence Against Women\* by Type of Violence, Canada, 1993



\* Figures represent lifetime rates of wife assault (since the age of 16 years) by either a current or previous marital or common-law partner.

Figures do not add to 100% because of multiple responses.

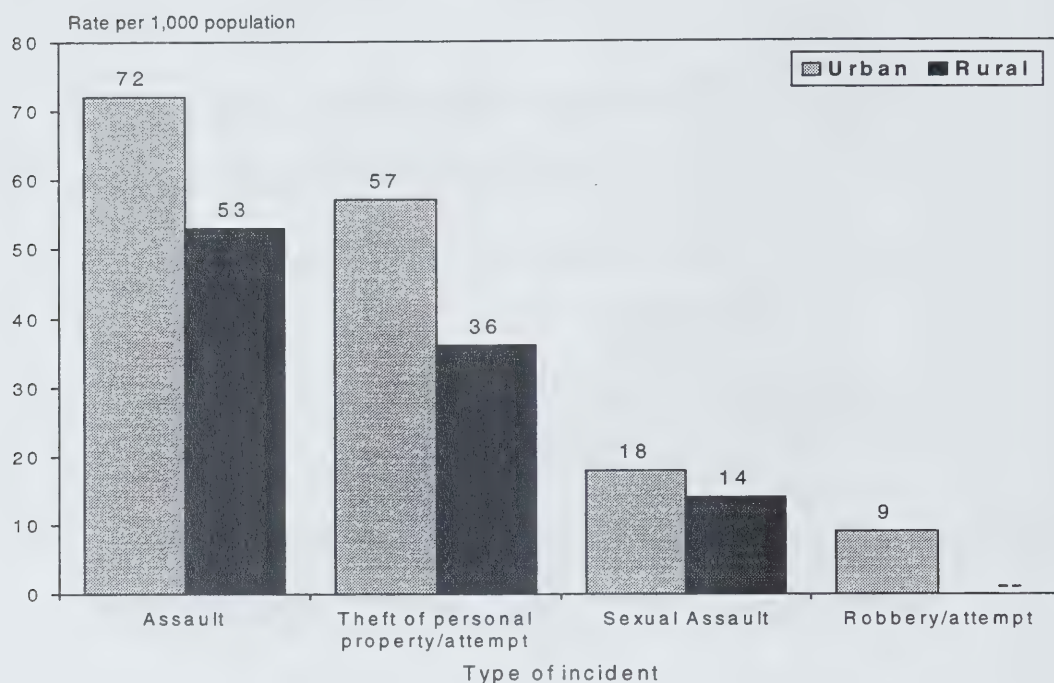
Source: Violence Against Women Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993.

For more information, see *Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 1998* (catalogue no. 85-224-XPE).

- 29% of ever-married women 18 years and older experienced violence at the hands of a current or previous marital/common-law partner.
- The most prevalent form of violence reported by women who experienced wife assault was pushing, grabbing, or shoving (25%).
- A significant number of women also reported being beaten up (9%), sexually assaulted (8%), choked (7%), hit with something (6%), and having had a gun or knife used against them (5%). At least 400,000 women fell into each of these categories.
- 13% of women who reported violence in a current marriage have at some point felt their lives were in danger. The same is true for 45% of victims who reported violence in previous marriages.

Figure 7.3

### Personal Victimization Rates by Type of Incident and Urban/Rural Residence, Population Age 15+, Canada, 1993\*



\* The 1993 General Social Survey asked respondents about their experiences with crime in the previous twelve months.

-- not statistically reliable

Source: General Social Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993.

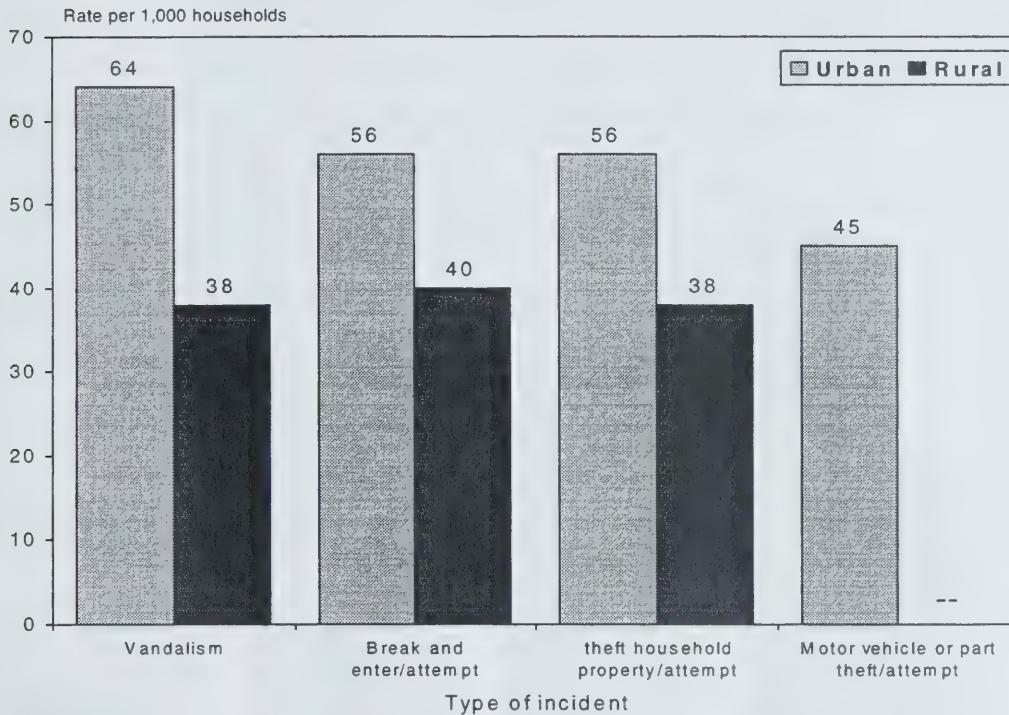
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.15, No.2, "Risk of Personal and Household Victimization: Canada, 1993."

- According to the General Social Survey, higher victimization rates for those in urban areas were consistent across all personal crime categories. The rate of personal victimization is 44% higher among urban than rural residents. The difference is largely attributable to personal thefts and assaults that are, respectively, 58% and 36% higher in urban areas. There is a much smaller difference in the rates of sexual assault: 18 sexual assaults per 1,000 urban dwellers compared to 14 per 1,000 rural residents.
- The differences between urban and rural dwellers were more significant for females than for males. While urban males experienced 24% higher personal victimization rates than rural males, urban females reported rates 47% higher than their rural counterparts. In both types of residential areas, women experienced higher personal victimization rates compared to men. These higher rates can be explained in part by the fact that women make up the vast majority of those who reported being sexually assaulted.



Figure 7.4

### Household Victimization Rates by Type of Incident and Urban/Rural Residence, Population Age 15+, Canada, 1993\*



\* The 1993 General Social Survey asked respondents about their experiences with crime in the previous twelve months.

-- not statistically reliable

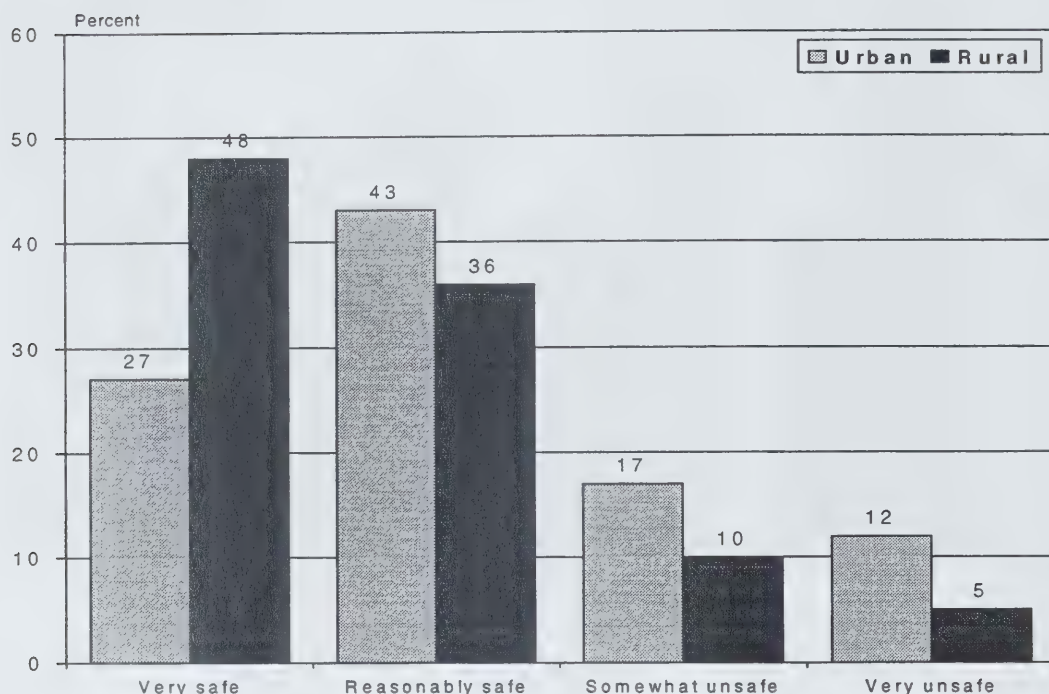
Source: General Social Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.14, No.17, "Urban/Rural Criminal Victimization in Canada."

- According to the General Social Survey, the rate of household victimization is 67% higher among urban than rural residents. For the individual crime categories of vandalism, break and enter and theft of household property, urban dwellers experienced higher rates by 40%, 47% and 68% respectively (insufficient motor vehicle/part thefts in rural areas were reported to produce reliable estimates).
- The 1993 data show that the overall rate of household victimization increased with the household income level. For household with incomes of \$60,000 and over, the victimization rate was 65% higher than the rate for those with incomes of less than \$15,000 (254 vs. 154 incidents per 1,000 households).

Figure 7.5

# Population 15+ by Feelings of Safety when Walking Alone in their Neighbourhoods After Dark by Urban/Rural Residence, Canada, 1993\*



\* The 1993 General Social Survey asked respondents about their experiences with crime in the previous twelve months.

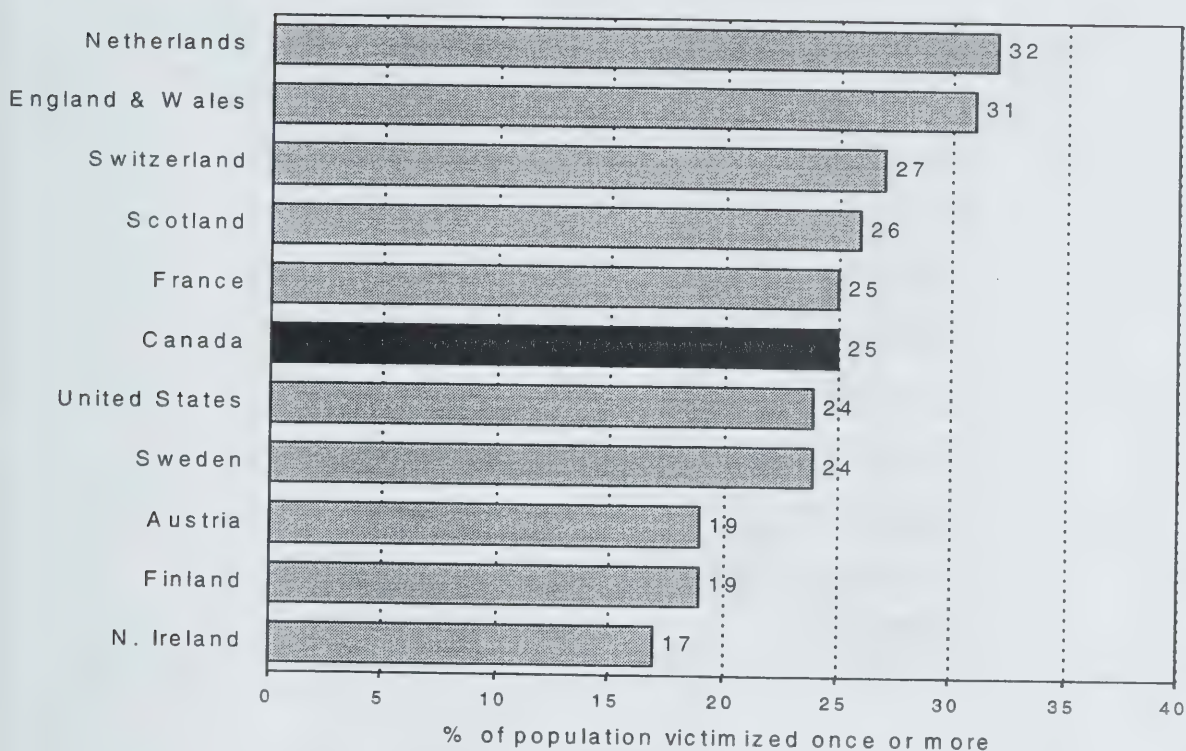
Source: General Social Survey, Statistics Canada, 1993.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.15, No.9, "Fear and Personal Safety."

- In 1993, the majority of Canadians reported feeling "very" or "reasonably safe" when walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark.
- Urban Canadians are almost twice as likely as rural Canadians to report that they feel "very" or "somewhat" unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark (29% as opposed to 15%).
- Feelings of safety can vary according to gender. Women in both urban and rural areas consistently demonstrate higher levels of fear compared to men. Rural women are twice as likely and urban women are three times as likely as their male counterparts to feel unsafe when walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark.

Figure 7.6

## Overall Victimization Rates, 1995



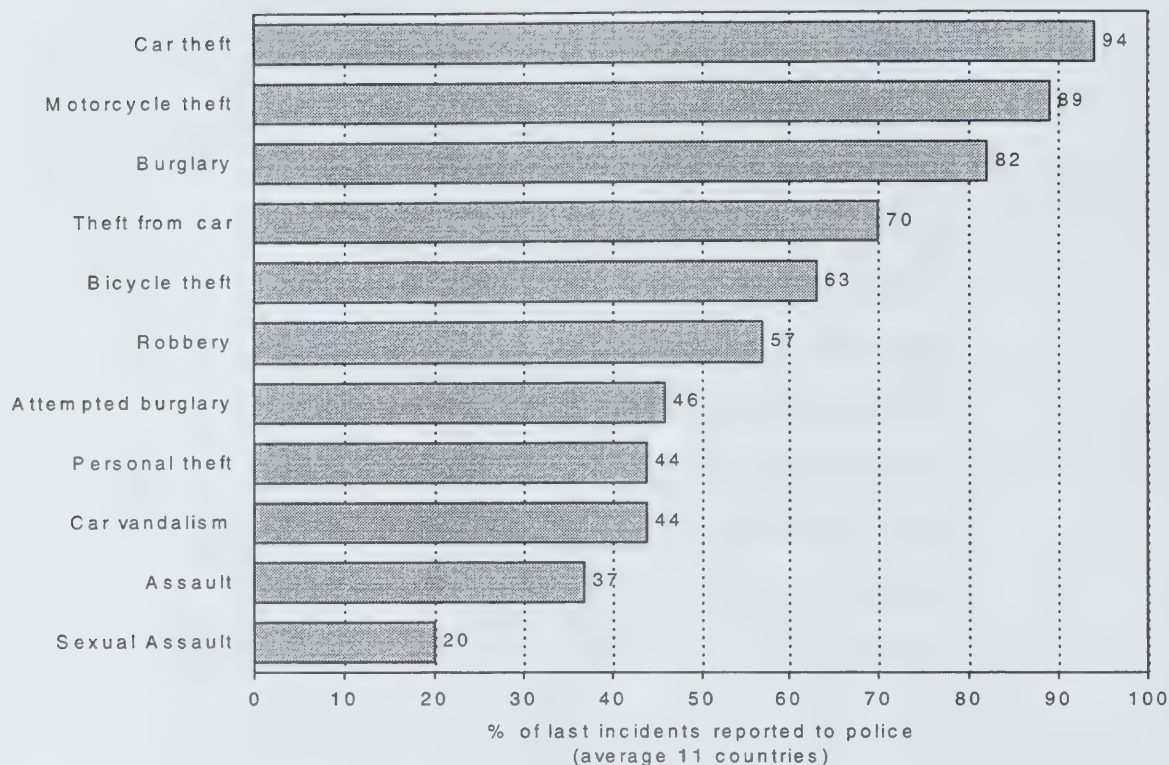
The International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) has been conducted three times - in 1989, 1992, and 1996. In 1996, there were over 30 participants from both industrialized and developing countries. The results for the 11 industrialized countries are presented here. The survey covers 11 main offences: car theft, theft from cars, vandalism to cars, motorcycle theft, bicycle theft, burglary, attempted burglary, robbery/attempts, theft of personal property, sexual victimization, and assault/attempts.

- The overall victimization rate (i.e. the proportion of persons victimized once or more during 1995 for any of the 11 offences) was highest in the Netherlands, followed by England & Wales. The average for the 11 countries was 24%. Although the United States figure was lower than Canada's, the difference is not statistically significant.



Figure 7.7

## Reporting Crimes to Police

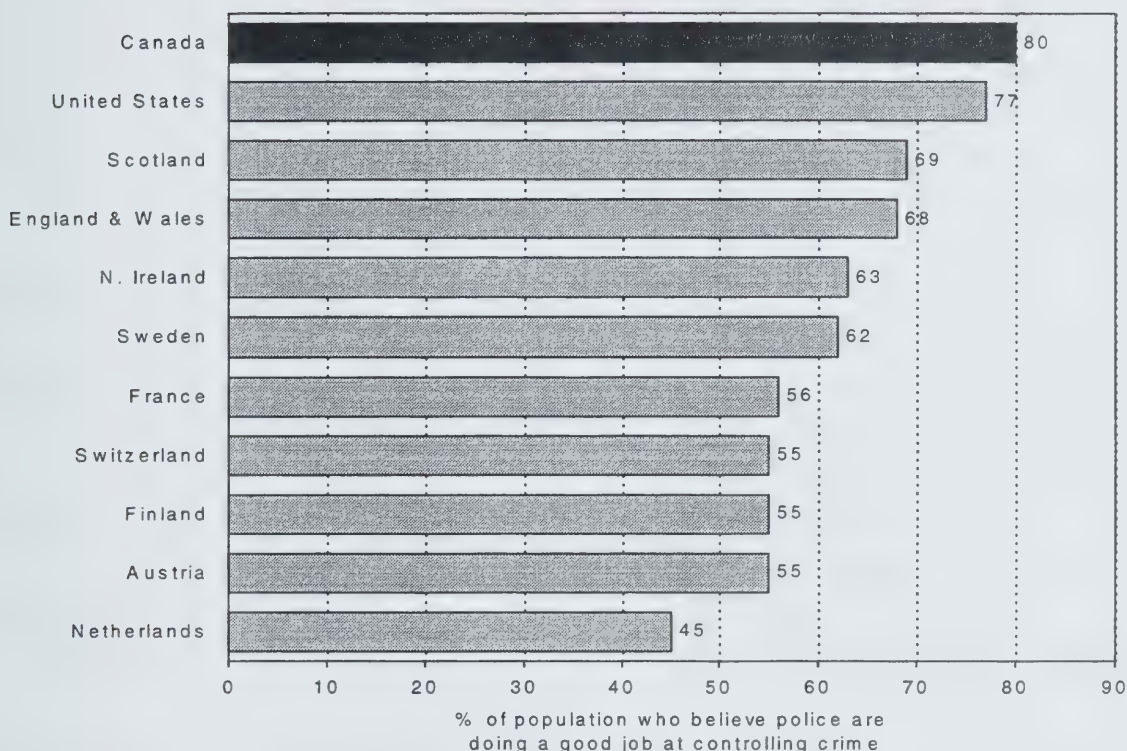


The International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) has been conducted three times - in 1989, 1992, and 1996. In 1996, there were over 30 participants from both industrialized and developing countries. The results for the 11 industrialized countries are presented here. The survey covers 11 main offences: car theft, theft from cars, vandalism to cars, motorcycle theft, bicycle theft, burglary, attempted burglary, robbery/attempts, theft of personal property, sexual victimization, and assault/attempts.

- Victims of an offence over the previous five years were asked if they had reported the last incident to the police. Property crimes were reported more frequently than crimes against the person. This could be due, in part, to having to report crimes involving insurance claims to the police.
- Of the 11 offences, car thefts were reported most often, followed by motorcycle thefts and burglaries. The two offences with lowest reporting rates were violent offences - sexual assault and assault.
- The average reporting rate for the 11 offences was 59%.

Figure 7.8

## Public Satisfaction with the Police



The International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) has been conducted three times - in 1989, 1992, and 1996. In 1996, there were over 30 participants from both industrialized and developing countries. The results for the 11 industrialized countries are presented here. The survey covers 11 main offences: car theft, theft from cars, vandalism to cars, motorcycle theft, bicycle theft, burglary, attempted burglary, robbery/attempts, theft of personal property, sexual victimization, and assault/attempts.

- Of the 11 western industrialized countries that participated in the 1996 survey, Canada had the highest percentage of the public (80%) who believed the police in their area were doing a good job at controlling crime. The United States ranked second at 77%. The average for all 11 countries was 62%.
- The Netherlands, the country with the highest overall victimization rate in 1995, had the lowest level of satisfaction.





## Appendix A

### Historical List of CCJS Publications

(see page 127 on how to order)

<u>Catalogue No.</u>	<u>Publication</u>
<b>1997-98</b>	
85-223-XPE	Crime and Police Resources in Canadian Municipalities, 1997 <b>Paper:</b> Canada \$32; Outside Canada : US \$30 <b>Internet:</b> Canada \$24; Outside Canada : US \$24
85-544-XPE	A Profile of Youth Justice in Canada <b>Internet:</b> Canada \$30; Outside Canada : US \$30
85-205-XPE/F	Canadian Crime Statistics 1997 <b>Paper:</b> Canada \$42; Outside Canada US\$42 <b>Internet:</b> Canada \$32; Outside Canada US\$32
85-222-XIE	Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults & Young Offenders, 97-98 <b>Internet:</b> Canada \$29; Outside Canada : US \$29 <b>Print on demand:</b> Canada: \$59; Outside Canada : US \$59
85F0015XPB	Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 1996-97 Canada: paper \$33; microfiche \$26; Outside Canada paper US \$33; microfiche US \$26
85-224-XPE/I	Family Violence in Canada : A Statistical Profile, 1998 Canada – Paper \$25; / Outside Canada - Paper \$US 25 / Free on Internet
85-522-XMB	Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 Canada – Paper \$37; Microfiche \$27 / Outside Canada Paper \$US 37 Microfiche \$US 27
85-211-XME	Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 <b>Paper/Microfiche:</b> Canada: \$40; Outside Canada: US \$40
85F0018PE	A Graphical Overview of Crime and the Administration of Justice in Canada, 1996 <b>Paper:</b> Canada - \$35; Outside Canada – US\$35
85F0019XPE	Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada – 1996 and 1997 Canada: \$31; Outside Canada: US \$31
85-223-XPE	Crime and Police Resources in Canadian Municipalities, 1996 Canada: \$32; Outside Canada: US\$32
85-205-XPE	Canadian Crime Statistics 1996 Canada: \$42; Outside Canada: US\$42
85-217-XDB	Legal Aid in Canada: Description of Operations - 1997 Canada: \$37; Outside Canada : US \$37 Electronic version only

85-522-XPB	Youth Court Statistics 1995-96 Paper: Canada: \$37., Outside Canada US\$37 Microfiche : Canada: \$27; Outside Canada US\$27
85-222-XPB	Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders Microfiche: Canada: \$ 37, Outside Canada US\$37 Paper: Canada: \$ 39, Outside Canada US\$39.
85-510	National Directory of Courts in Canada, August 1997 Canada: \$30, U.S.: Outside Canada US\$30
85-542-XPE	An Overview of the Differences between Police-Reported and Victim-Reported Crime, 1997 Canada: \$5; Outside Canada US \$5
85F0015XPB	Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 1995-96 Canada: \$33; Outside Canada US \$33
85-217-XDB	Legal Aid in Canada: Description of Operations - March 1996 Canada: \$37; Outside Canada : US \$37 Electronic version only
<b>1996-97</b>	
85-211-XPB	Adult Correctional Services in Canada 1995-96 Canada: \$35; Outside Canada: US\$35
85-513-XPE	Sentencing in Adult Provincial Courts: Study of Nine Jurisdictions 1993 & 1994 Canada: \$35.00; Outside Canada: US \$35
85F0016XPB	Selected Police Administration Characteristics of Municipal Police Departments 1995 Canada: \$30.00; U.S.: US\$36.00; Other countries: US\$42.00
85F0019XPE	Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada 1995 and 1996 Canada: \$30.00; U.S.: US\$36.00; Other countries: US\$42.00
uncatalogued	Police Reported Crime Data in Canadian Municipalities Canada: \$31.00; U.S.: US\$37.00; Other countries: US\$43.00
uncatalogued	Corrections Utilization Study - A Review of the National and International Literature and Recommendations for a National Study on Recidivism
85-205 E	Canadian Crime Statistics 1995 Canada: \$40.00; U.S.: US\$48.00; Other countries: US\$56.00
85-402-XPE	Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel 1994-95 Microfiche: Canada: \$ 25.00, U.S.: US\$30.00, Other countries: US\$35.00 Paper: Canada: \$ 30.00, U.S.: US\$36.00, Other countries: US\$42.00
85-222-XPB	Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders Microfiche: Canada: \$ 35.00, U.S.: US\$42.00, Other countries: US\$49.00 Paper: Canada: \$ 37.00, U.S.: US\$45.00, Other countries: US\$52.00

85-F0018XPE Graphical Overview of Crime and the Administration of Criminal Justice in Canada  
Canada: \$ 35.00, U.S.: US\$42.00, Other countries: US\$49.00

## 1995-96

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## Glossary of Terms

**Absolute or conditional discharge:** Where an accused pleads guilty to or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum punishment prescribed by law or is punishable by imprisonment for 14 years or life, the court may, instead of convicting the accused, direct that the accused be discharged absolutely or upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. Although there must be a determination of guilt before a discharge may be imposed, the recipient of a discharge is shielded from the stigmatizing consequences of a criminal record.

**Acquittal:** The release or judicial discharge from an accusation of suspicion of guilt. An individual is acquitted by a court either when a verdict of not guilty has been rendered at the close of a trial or when an appellate court decision has absolved him or her of the charges that were the bases of the action.

**Accused:** A person who has been identified by police as an offender in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident. Does not include suspects.

**Admissions:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Admissions are the number of persons entering a correctional facility in a given time period. The Adult Corrections Survey collects the following information on those admitted to custody: sentence disposition/length; age and sex of the offender; ethnicity of the offender (i.e. native/non-native); and, offence for which the offender was convicted.

**Adults:** Adults consist of all persons 18 years of age and over. As opposed to youths, the target group here falls under the delegation of the adult justice system.

**Alternative measures:** Actions other than judicial proceedings used to deal with a young person alleged to have committed an offence. These measures are not the responsibility of the police service but rather specific programs developed pursuant to section 4 of the *Young Offenders Act*. Young persons participating in Alternative Measures may or may not have been charged by police. The existence of such programs is one factor among many that are likely to explain the divergence between UCR and Courts data. In addition, youths may be diverted from the court system with a referral to an informal diversion program sponsored by the police service. These youths are not charged for the offence.

**Appearance (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A court event recorded by the type of hearing for an accused appearing in court in relation to one or more charges, where all charges were first presented in the same court on the same date.

**Average counts:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Counts describe the number of inmates in the institutions at a given instant and provide the average daily population in correctional institutions. The only other data collected by the Adult Corrections Survey in conjunction with the counts are the status of the inmates (remand/sentenced).

**Case (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** An accused person or corporation having one or more charges where the charges are first presented in the same court on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of court location, accused identifier and date of first court appearance.

**Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA):** An urbanized core with at least 100,000 population.

**Cleared by charge:** When a police investigation leads to the identification of at least one suspect, an "information" is laid against that person (i.e., the person is formally charged with at least one offence). From a statistical point of view, the laying of an information means that at least one actual incident can be "cleared by charge". An incident can be cleared by charge even if the police have not apprehended the accused person, provided that person has been identified and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge.

**Conditional release:** The planned and gradual release of inmates into the community through release mechanisms such as day parole, full parole, temporary absences, and statutory release.

**Constant Dollars:** Dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base which adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable.

**Crime Rate:** Refers to total police-reported Criminal Code actual incidents, excluding traffic. All crime rates are based on 100,000 population unless otherwise stated.

**Criminal Code Incidents:** An accumulation of violent, property and other criminal code incidents (e.g. arson, prostitution, mischief).

**Criminal Code Traffic incidents:** These incidents involve offences such as impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and failing to stop or remain at the scene of an accident. Incidents related to impaired driving account for over one-half of the incidents in this category.

**Drug incidents:** These incidents involve offences under the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Narcotic Control Act*. These offences comprise possession, trafficking, importation or cultivation of various illicit, controlled and restricted drugs.

**Elapsed Time From First Appearance to Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** The time taken to dispose of all charges for a case.

**Federal correctional facility:** Correctional facilities for adult offenders run by the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) which is part of the federal Ministry of the Solicitor General. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment of two years or more are the responsibility of CSC and are housed in federal correctional facilities. Federally sentenced offenders are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Homicide:** Homicide incidents include first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

**Median:** The median refers to the middle value when data are ranged in order of magnitude.

**Mischief - Bill C-18:** Bill C-18 changed the way mischief offences are categorized. Before 1986, mischief offences were distinguished between damage to public property and damage to private property. Since the amendment, mischief has been categorized according to the value of property damage: mischief with property damage over \$1,000, and mischief with property damage \$1000 and under. In 1994, Bill C-42 was proclaimed raising the property damage (mischief) to \$5,000.



**Most Serious Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that a case contains more than one charge. Dispositions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: found guilty as charged or guilty of a lesser or included offence; committed for trial in Superior Court; other (acquitted on account of insanity, waived in/out of province or territory, other); stay of proceedings; acquitted, withdrawn, dismissed, discharged at preliminary hearing; unknown.

**Most Serious Sentence (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that more than one sentence is associated with a charge or the most serious conviction for a case. Sentences are ordered from most to least serious as follows: prison; probation; fine; restitution/compensation; other (absolute discharge, conditional discharge, suspended sentence; payment of legal costs, other suspension of driver's license).

**Most Significant Charge (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious charge from the perspective of the final outcome of the case upon adjudication or disposition. Where a person or case has only one charge, it is defined as the most significant. Where more than one charge is linked to a person or case, three criteria are used to select one charge as the most significant: (1) the decision of the court; (2) the nature of the offence; (3) the disposition of the charge. Decisions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed. Where two or more charges have the highest priority decision, the charge with the most serious offence is selected as the most significant. Violent charges are given first priority in the selection process, followed by drug and narcotic offences, property offences, other Criminal Code offences, offences under the Young Offenders Act, and other federal statute offences. Offences are prioritized within these offence categories. Where two or more charges are tied at this level, the charge with the most significant disposition is selected.

**Most Significant Decision (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious decision rendered for a person or case. Decisions are ordered from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed.

**Most Significant Disposition (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious disposition for a person or case. The seriousness of the disposition is determined by the effect it has on the young person. Dispositions are ordered from the most to the least serious as follows: secure custody; detention for treatment; open custody; probation; fine; compensation; pay purchaser; compensation in kind; community service order; restitution; prohibition, seizure or forfeiture; other disposition; absolute discharge. If the disposition with the highest priority is a fine, compensate or pay purchaser, and there is a combination of these, the disposition with the largest dollar value is selected as the most significant. In the event that multiple charges result in multiple custody orders, the highest priority is assigned to the longest custody order. The same situation applies in the case of multiple probation orders.

**Other Criminal Code incidents:** These incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences that are not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences). Examples are mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

**Open custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Open custody facilities closely monitor the actions and whereabouts of young offenders, but the residents are allowed to leave the facility for reasons such as attending school. Group homes are an example of an open custody facility.



**Other Federal Statute offences:** These incidents include violations under federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code*, the *Narcotics Control Act* and the *Food and Drug Act*. About one-half of the incidents in this category fall under the *Canada Shipping Act*, the *Immigration Act*, the *Customs Act*, the *Excise Act*, and the *Bankruptcy Act*.

**Persons charged:** The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey (UCR) records the number of persons charged in association with cleared incidents. For incidents cleared, the UCR survey collects the number of adults charged (male and female) as well as the number of youths charged (male and female). The "persons charged" category includes the number of people charged or recommended for charges by police, *not* the number of charges laid or recommended against those people.

**Probation:** Probation orders are dispositions imposed by the Court that are a non-custodial sentence. They are the release of an offender into the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The release is conditional on the offender acting in a manner stipulated by his or her probation officer.

**Property incidents:** These incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes.

**Provincial/territorial correctional facility:** Correctional facilities that are run by the provincial or territorial correctional services. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment which is less than two years are the exclusive responsibility of provincial/territorial correctional services and are housed in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Federal offenders sentenced to two years or more are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Rate per 100,000 population:** "Rate per 100,000 population" refers to the total number of incidents divided by the total population and multiplied by 100,000. A "rate" is an approximation of the relative risk of being victimized by a criminal act. Rates may be calculated per other standard populations. For instance, the General Social Survey calculates criminal victimization incidents per 1,000 population.

**Remand:** Typically, a person is remanded into custody pending the arrangement of Judicial Interim Release, or to ensure that the accused appears in court, or to protect society from the accused.

**Reported incidents:** When a crime is reported to the police by a citizen, the incident is recorded as a "reported" incident. Police then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the report. In addition, "reported" incidents include those which are uncovered by the police themselves.

**Restitution/compensation:** The act of paying the crime victim for any loss, damage or injury through monetary payment or through the performance of specified services for the victim.

**Secure custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Secure custody facilities are often called Youth Detention Centres and the premises are secured and the movement of young offenders is strictly monitored.

**Stay of proceedings:** A halt by the Crown in the judicial proceedings where the court will not take further action until the occurrence of some event. A stay can be temporary or permanent. The effect is to suspend the proceedings rather than to terminate them altogether.

**Suspended sentence:** Where an accused pleads guilty or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum sentence or is punishable by 14 years or life imprisonment, a sentencing court may suspend the passing of sentence and direct that the offender be released upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. This sentencing option allows the court to later impose any sentence that could have been imposed if the passing of sentence had not been suspended, a decision which may be taken if the offender violates his/her probation order.

**Violent incidents:** These incidents, as collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, involve offences that may result in physical injury to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm are included under *Criminal Code* traffic incidents.

**Young Offenders Act (YOA):** The YOA came into effect in 1984, replacing the Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA). At that time, 12 became the minimum age requirement for criminal responsibility under the YOA. However, it was not until 1985 that the maximum age of 17 (up to the 18th birthday) was established in all provinces and territories.

**Youths:** Youths, as defined in this publication, refer to those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). This definition applies to the target group that falls under the delegation of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA). In this publication, rates of accused youths are represented only by those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). The number of YOA incidents reported to police are included in the category "Other federal statute offences".



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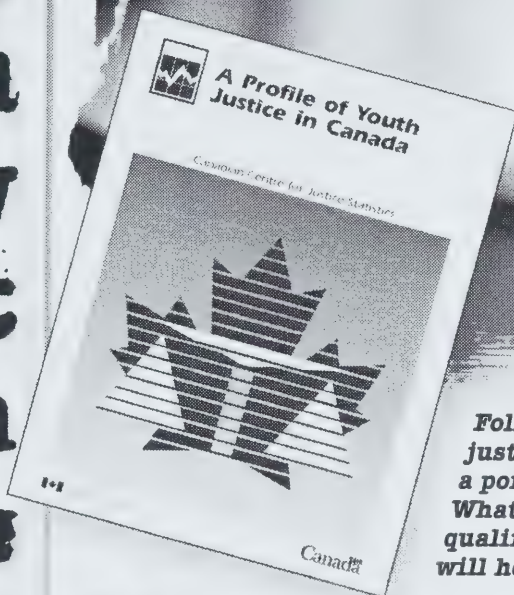
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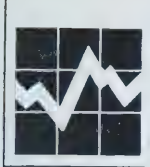
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# A Graphical Overview of Crime and the Administration of Criminal Justice in Canada, 1998

Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics





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## Note of Appreciation

Canada owes the success of its statistical system to a long-standing cooperation involving Statistics Canada, the citizens of Canada, its businesses, governments and other institutions. Accurate and timely statistical information could not be produced without their continued cooperation and goodwill.



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## Introduction

In 1981, the Chief Statistician and the Federal and Provincial Deputy Ministers with responsibility for justice in Canada began the National Justice Statistics Initiative in response to the long time absence of a comprehensive system of comparable national justice statistics. The purpose of the Initiative is to collect and disseminate justice statistics and information to support the administration of justice in Canada, and to ensure that accurate information regarding the nature and extent of crime and the administration of civil and criminal justice is available to the Canadian public. The Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics (CCJS) is the administrative arm of the Initiative and a division of Statistics Canada. With guidance from its provincial-federal committees, the CCJS develops and implements statistical surveys, and provides information, products and services to both the partners in the Initiative and the public.

The purpose of this product is to provide a visual statistical overview of crime and the administration of criminal justice in Canada. While more detailed information is available in a variety of CCJS publications focusing on specific surveys or subject matters (see Appendices A and B), this product brings together data from all the CCJS's surveys, and data from two Statistics Canada victimization surveys. To provide national and international context, selected Canadian socio-demographic statistics are included, as well as international crime statistics. Specifically, graphics are presented on the following areas: Canadian socio-demographic characteristics; Canadian police-reported crime statistics (the incident, the accused, the victim); police administration statistics; adult and youth court activity; the correctional population; costs of the criminal justice system; violence against women; Canadians' experiences with crime, and their perceptions and fears of crime; and international crime statistics.

## Survey Descriptions

### Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) survey was developed by Statistics Canada with the cooperation and assistance of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The UCR survey became operational in 1962. It covers crime and traffic statistics reported by all police agencies across Canada. UCR survey data reflect reported crime that has been substantiated through police investigation. The survey collects numbers of criminal incidents, and numbers of persons charged. To date, the UCR survey has thus produced a continuous 35-year historical record.

Throughout this report, **the terms "crime" and "crime rate" refer to total police-reported Criminal Code actual incidents, excluding traffic**, unless noted otherwise. It is also important to note that, **for incidents involving multiple offences, only the most serious offence in the incident is counted**. All crime rates are based on 100,000 population unless otherwise stated.

### The Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey

In 1983, the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics began a major revision of the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Survey in order to collect more detailed information on the characteristics of an incident and basic data on the persons involved in an incident, both victims and accused. In 1988, two police agencies began reporting to the "Revised" UCR Survey. By 1998, 169 police agencies, representing about 46% of the national volume of reported crime, were responding to the new survey.

## **Homicide Survey**

The Homicide Survey has collected police-reported data on homicide incidents and characteristics of the victims and accused since 1961. Whenever a homicide becomes known to the police, an officer from the police department in whose jurisdiction it is committed completes a survey questionnaire. This questionnaire remained virtually unchanged from 1961 to 1990. In 1991 and 1997, in an effort to respond to changing information needs, the survey was revised to add new data elements as well as to improve some existing ones.

## **Police Administration Survey**

The Police Administration Survey collects information on police personnel and expenditures from all municipal and provincial police forces in Canada, as well as the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Personnel data are available by type of personnel (police, special constables and civilians) and gender. Expenditures are available by major financial category. Detailed RCMP expenditures are collected, including the cost-sharing of municipal and provincial policing contracts.

## **Adult Criminal Court Survey**

The Adult Criminal Court Survey (ACCS) has two components: caseload and case characteristics. The Case Characteristics component of the survey collects detailed information on each appearance of an accused charged with a Criminal Code or Other Federal Statute offence. The survey collects all appearances in provincial courts for 'completed' charges by fiscal year. The Caseload Component of the ACCS is designed to collect aggregate information on charges, persons and appearances on a quarterly basis. As of 1996-97, eight jurisdictions participated in the case characteristics component of the survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the Yukon. This results in approximately eighty percent coverage of the provincial and territorial adult criminal court cases. The 140 municipal courts in Quebec do not report to the survey. It is estimated that 20 percent of federal statute charges in Quebec are heard in municipal courts.

## **Youth Court Survey**

The Youth Court Survey (YCS) is a census of Criminal Code and other Federal Statute offences heard in youth court for youths aged 12 to 17 years at the time of the offence. On each charge, data are collected which describe the nature of the offence, the court decision and disposition, and the age and gender of the accused. Data have been available since 1984-85 for all jurisdictions except Ontario and the Northwest Territories. YCS data for Ontario became available in 1991-92. Data for the Northwest Territories are not available for fiscal years 1986-87 through 1988-89.

## **Adult Corrections Survey**

The Adult Corrections Survey (ACS) collects aggregate caseload and case characteristics data for custodial and non-custodial correctional services at both the federal and provincial/territorial levels. As well, the survey gathers information on resources, expenditures and personnel. Descriptive data on organizational structure and service delivery are also collected. The ACS became operational in 1979-80 and collects data from all jurisdictions.



## **Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adult and Young Offenders**

The Key Indicator Report (KIR) provides data on "average daily institutional counts" for all provincial, territorial and federal facilities across Canada. Key indicator data on adults were first gathered for the fiscal year 1981-82 and data on youths for the fiscal year 1985-86. Information is supplied to the Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics by the ten provinces, two territories and Correctional Services Canada.

## **The Violence Against Women Survey**

In 1993, Statistics Canada conducted a national survey on male violence against women on behalf of Health Canada. A random sample of approximately 12,300 women 18 years of age and older residing across the ten provinces were interviewed in depth by telephone about their experiences of physical and sexual violence since the age of 16. Measures of violence were confined to Criminal Code definitions of physical and sexual assault. Information was also collected about the respondents' perceptions of personal safety. Random selection helps ensure that the women who responded are statistically representative of all Canadian women and that the results of the survey can be generalized to Canada's adult female population at large.

## **The General Social Survey**

In 1988, a survey on personal risk related to criminal victimization was initiated as part of Statistics Canada's General Social Survey program. The survey collected data on personal risk, examining the prevalence and social and demographic distribution of eight specific types of criminal victimization experiences. Respondents were asked about their experiences with crime during 1987 and all measures of victimization were restricted to Criminal Code definitions. The survey also examined details surrounding the incident, Canadians' levels of fear, and their perceptions of crime and the criminal justice system. This survey was replicated in 1993. Two main differences exist between the 1993 and 1988 surveys. First, the 1993 survey asked respondents about their experiences with crime during the twelve months prior to the survey rather than during the previous calendar year. Second, the definition of sexual assault was broadened in the 1993 survey to better capture these incidents as defined by the Criminal Code: while the 1988 survey asked only about experiences of "rape", the 1993 survey asked about forced sexual activity and unwanted sexual touching. Both surveys conducted telephone interviews with a random sample of approximately 10,000 Canadians aged 15 years and older residing in households across the ten provinces.

## **International Crime Victimization Survey**

In 1996, the International Crime Victimization Survey (ICVS) was conducted for a third time. Canada was one of more than 30 participating countries. The survey provides information on the incidence of victimization around the world. In 1996, a random sample of persons aged 16 years and older were asked for detailed information on 11 offences (p. 108), including when, where and how often offences occurred over the previous 5 years; whether offences were reported to the police; and whether victimization experiences were considered serious. They were also asked for their opinions on public safety, policing and sentencing. In most industrialized countries, respondents were interviewed by phone. In other countries, where telephone ownership is not widespread, face-to-face interviews were conducted. Usually, 1,000 to 2,000 persons were interviewed per country.

The ICVS provides a unique opportunity to make international comparisons regarding experiences of crime and public opinion of justice issues.





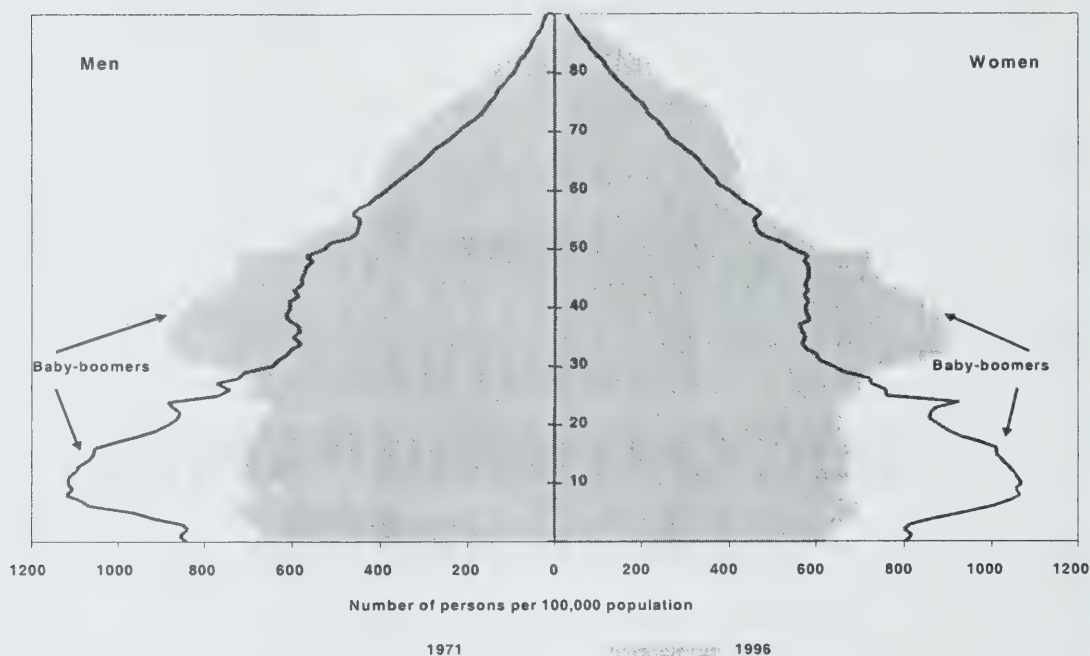


**SECTION 1:**

**CANADIAN  
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Figure 1.1

## Population Distribution by Age and Sex, Canada, 1971 and 1996



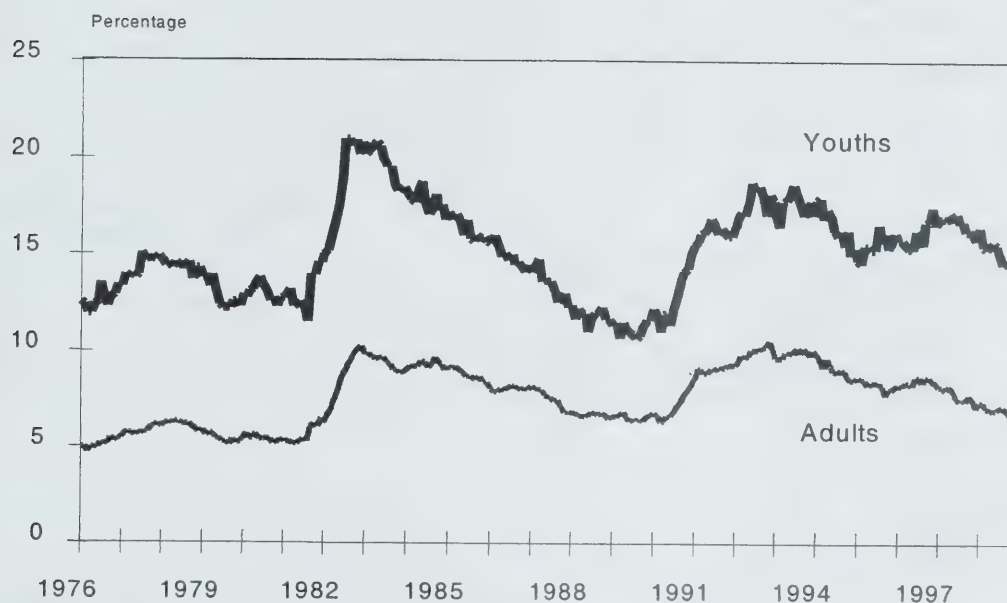
Source: Canada Census, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Population Estimates and Projections, Census and Intercensal Studies (catalogues 91-002 and 91-512).

- Since Confederation, Canada's population has steadily increased: in 1996, the Census of Population counted 29.9 million people in Canada while there were only 18.2 million counted in 1961.
- A demographic evolution is occurring in Canada.
  - The baby-boomers are now aged 30 to 50.
  - Fertility rates have declined since 1971 resulting in fewer children.
  - Mortality rates have declined resulting in increased longevity.
  - There has been a decreasing proportion of young adults, the group at greatest risk of committing crime or being victims, and an increasing proportion of elderly who are more fearful of crime.
- Canada's population is aging. It is projected that persons aged 65 and over will make up more than 20% of the population by 2011, and more than 30% by 2041. In comparison, persons aged 0 - 14 decreased dramatically from about 45% of the population in 1976 to approximately 30% in 1996. This decline is expected to continue, reaching a low of about 25% by 2041.

Figure 1.2

## Youth Unemployment Rate\* Persistently High in 1990s



\* The unemployment rate is an estimate of the percentage of the labour force not employed and seeking work. The measure does not include those who report that they would like work, but who have stopped searching because they believe no work is available.

Source: Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Labour Force Annual Averages (catalogue 71-220).

- The recession that began in 1990 greatly affected the unemployment rate in Canada which reached a nine-year high (the same as the 1984 rate) of 11.3% in 1992. After increasing slightly from 1995 to 1996, the unemployment rate dropped by 0.5% in 1997 and 0.9% in 1998. Overall, the unemployment rate was higher among men (8.5%) than women (8.1%) in 1997.
- The recession affected employment in almost every age group and profession. Between 1990 and 1992, the number of employed Canadians dropped by 323,000. In the past 6 years, this figure has increased by approximately 1,485,000.
- The unemployment rate of youths (age 15 - 24) has been consistently higher than the unemployment rate for adults. Younger Canadians, particularly those with limited education, were especially affected by the recession. The unemployment rate for young people aged 15 to 24 years rose from 11.2% in 1989 to 17.8% in 1992. By 1995, the unemployment rate for this age category had decreased to a five-year low of 15.6%, only to increase to 16.1% in 1996 and 16.7% in 1997. In 1998, the unemployment rate of those 15 to 24 years was higher among men (16.6%) than women (13.7%).

Figure 1.3

## Average Family Income in Constant (1997) Dollars, 1980-97



### Average Family Income in Constant 1997 Dollars\*

\* Constant dollars are dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base which adjusts for inflation making the yearly amounts directly comparable.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finance, Statistics Canada.

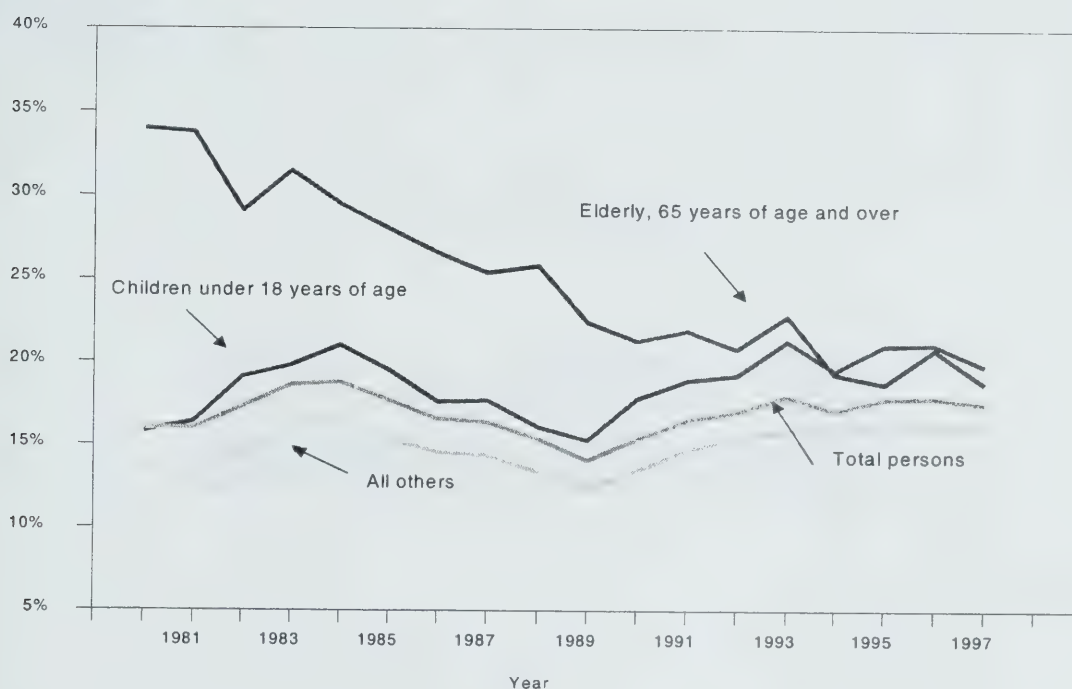
For more information, see *Income Distributions by Size in Canada 1997* (catalogue no.13-207).

- The average family income before taxes in 1997 was \$57,146, essentially unchanged from the 1996 amount. This left family income at virtually the same level it was in 1994, the last year there was a significant improvement.
- The 1997 average family income was 4.5% lower than the 1989 peak of \$59,862 (in 1997 constant dollars).



Figure 1.4

## Low-Income\* Rates, 1980-97



\* Percentage of families and unattached individuals with incomes below the "low-income cut-offs". Cut-offs are selected on the basis that unattached individuals and families with incomes below these limits spend, on average, 52.6% or more of their income on food, shelter and clothing. This indicator of low-income is not intended as a measure of poverty.

Source: Survey of Consumer Finance, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Income Distribution by Size in Canada 1997 (catalogue no.13-207).

- In 1997, there were an estimated 5.2 million Canadians in low-income situations, a decrease of 72,000 from 1996. With the exception of a reduction in 1994, low-income rates have been rising since 1989.
- For families, the rate of low-income in 1997 was 14%, a decrease from 14.5% in 1996. Female lone-parent families had the highest rate of low-income in 1997 (56%).
- 20% of children under 18 years of age (or 1.4 million young people) were living in low-income situations in 1997, a decrease from 21% in 1996.
- Overall, the rate of low-income has dropped sharply for the elderly since 1980 and increased for others since 1989.





## **SECTION 2:**

# **POLICE-REPORTED CRIME STATISTICS**

Figure 2.1

## Selected Changes in Justice Legislation

### 1976 - Capital Punishment Abolished

In 1976, capital punishment was abolished and replaced with a mandatory life sentence for all those offences for which death sentences existed. The amendment also reclassified murder, from capital and non-capital murder to first and second-degree murder.

### 1978 – Firearm Legislation Enacted

In 1978, gun control legislation came into effect in Canada. This legislation included the imposition of stricter controls on the issuance of registration certificates which are necessary to acquire restricted weapons such as handguns, the creation of new types of firearm prohibition orders, the creation of new criminal offences in relation to firearm use, and the provision for more severe penalties for the criminal use of firearms.

### 1983 – Bill C-127 Amended Assault Provisions

In 1983, Bill C-127 redefined the physical and sexual assault sections of the Criminal Code, establishing three levels: level 1 (minor assault/sexual assault), level 2 (incidents involving a weapon or resulting in bodily harm), and level 3 (aggravated assault/sexual assault).

### 1984 – Young Offenders Act Enacted

The Young Offenders Act (YOA) came into effect in 1984, replacing the Juvenile Delinquents Act. At this time, 12 became the minimum age requirement for criminal responsibility under the YOA. However, it was not until 1985 that the maximum age of 17 (up to the 18th birthday) was established in all provinces and territories.

### 1985 – Bill C-49 Expanded Definition of Prostitution

#### Bill C-18 Imposes Stringent Sentences for Impaired Driving

- Bill C-49 expanded the definition of soliciting to include the act of stopping or attempting to stop a person to communicate for the purpose of engaging in prostitution. This amendment resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of prostitution related incidents after 1985.

- Bill C-18 imposed more stringent sentences for drinking and driving. Despite the severity of penalties, impaired driving offences are highly sensitive to changes in police enforcement practices.

### 1988 – Bill C-15 Child Sexual Abuse Amendments

In 1988, Bill C-15 introduced child abuse amendments to the Criminal Code and the Canada Evidence Act. The Bill created three new offences relating to the sexual abuse of children: sexual interference, sexual exploitation, and invitation to sexual touching. It also changed rules of evidence and procedure with respect to sexual offences and the testimony of young people under the age of 18.

### 1991 – Bill C-17 Firearms Legislation

In 1991 Bill C-17 was passed which served to control access to firearms, control the availability and accessibility of specific firearms and deter offenders from using firearms in crimes.

### 1993 – Bill C-126 Criminal Harassment Legislation

On August 1, 1993, Canada's first criminal harassment legislation was enacted. The legislation was in response to a number of highly publicized cases in Canada where women had been killed by their estranged partners. The aim of the legislation is to try and control this type of behaviour and respond to it before it results in serious harm.

### 1995 – Bill C-68 Firearms Act

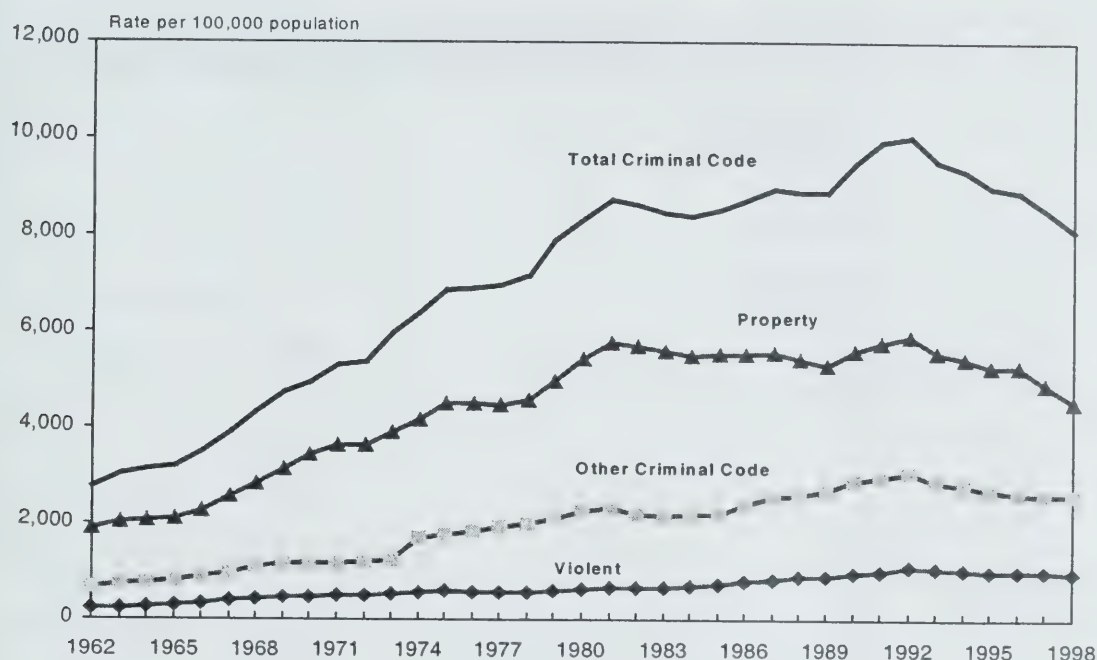
In December 1995, Parliament passed Bill C-68 which created a new Firearms Act and amended the Criminal Code. As part of the new legislation, firearm owners will be required to become licensed and to register all of their firearms over the next few years. In addition, new offences related to gun smuggling and trafficking, as well as the prohibition of a number of different types of handguns have been created. Furthermore, mandatory penalties for those who use firearms in the commission of an offence have been implemented.

### 1996 – Bill C-41 Sentencing Reform

In 1996, Bill C-41 was proclaimed into law. The Bill addresses the problem of sentencing disparity and over-reliance on incarceration in Canada. The sentencing reforms are designed to enhance protection of the public, assist victims of crime, instill greater responsibility in offenders and support the principles of rehabilitation, restitution, and deterrence.

Figure 2.2

## Crime Rates\* by Major Category, Canada, 1962-98



\* Excludes Criminal Code traffic incidents.

Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

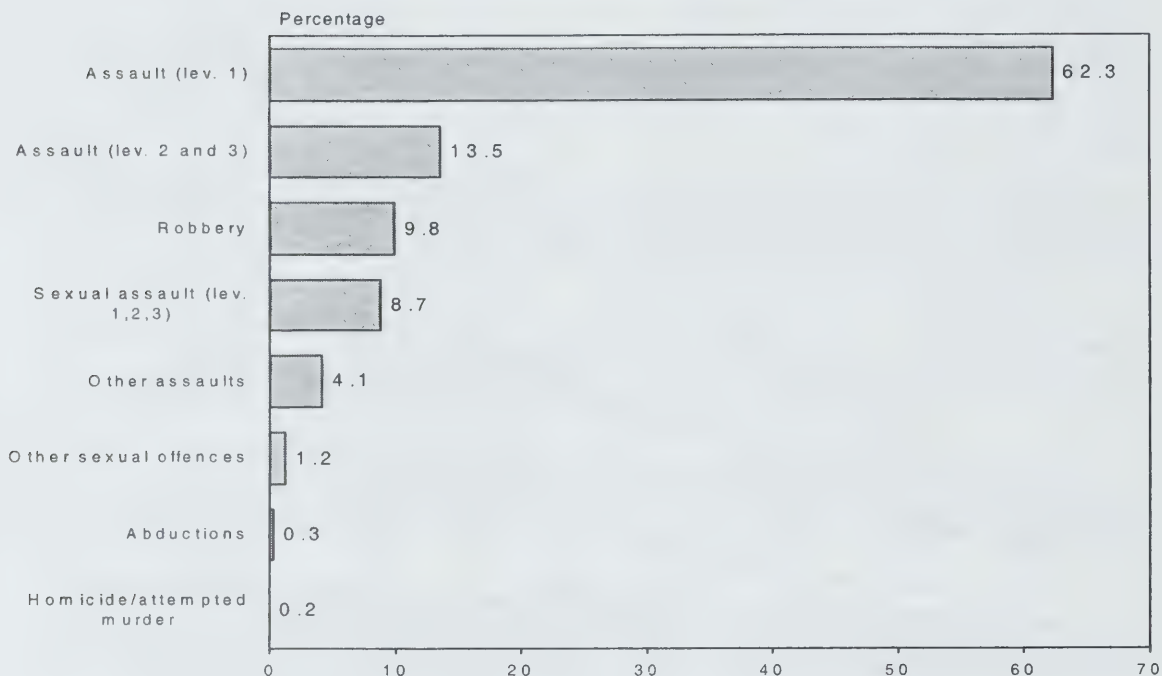
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, the police-reported crime rate for *Criminal Code* offences decreased by 4%. The 1998 rate was the lowest since 1979.
- The rate of violent crime rate declined for the sixth straight year, down 2%. Despite these recent declines, the violent crime rate was still 12% higher than 10 years ago.
- Violent crime comprised 12% of total *Criminal Code* incidents. Assault level 1 (minor assault) incidents accounted for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes.
- The 1998 property rate fell 7% from the previous year, continuing the downward trend since 1991.
- In 1998, property crimes represented 56% of *Criminal Code* incidents, 66% of which were thefts and over one quarter (26%) of which were incidents of breaking and entering.
- The rate of "other" *Criminal Code* incidents (e.g., mischief, prostitution, gaming and betting, arson, kidnapping etc.) has remained relatively constant compared to 1997 (-0.3%). Over 4 in 10 of "other" *Criminal Code* incidents were mischief offences (property damage).



Figure 2.3

## Violent Crime Categories, Canada, 1998

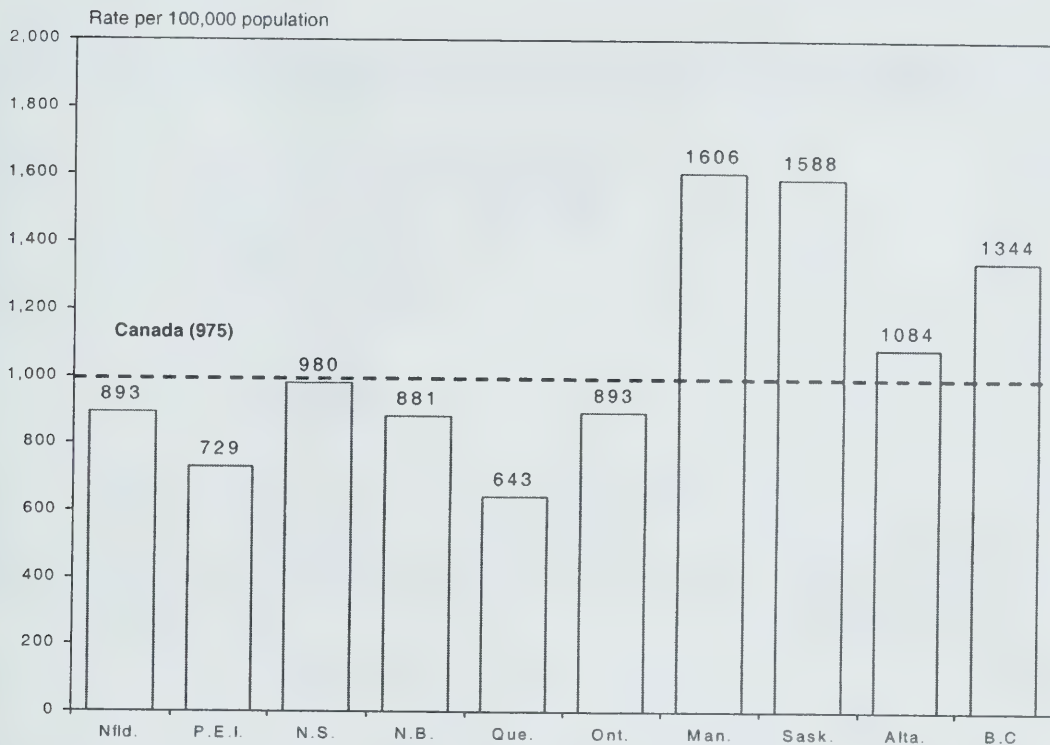


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- Violent crime comprised 12% of *Criminal Code* offences in 1998, compared with 9% five years ago.
- Common assault (level 1) accounts for more than 6 in 10 violent crimes.
- For the remaining violent crimes, 14% were serious assaults (levels 2 and 3), 10% were robbery, 9% were sexual assaults (levels 1, 2, 3), 4% were other assaults, 1% were other sexual offences, 0.3% were abductions and 0.2% were homicide/attempted murder.

Figure 2.4

## Violent Crime, Canada and the Provinces, 1998



Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- Although the national violent crime rate decreased in 1998, there were increases reported in Saskatchewan (+3%), Quebec (+3%) while New Brunswick, Alberta, Prince Edward Island and Ontario remained relatively unchanged.
- In 1998, Manitoba reported the highest violent crime rate (1,606 incidents per 100,000 population), followed by Saskatchewan (1,588) and British Columbia (1,344). Quebec (643 per 100,000) and Prince Edward Island (729) reported the lowest violent crime rates.

Figure 2.5

## Robbery Incidents, Canada, 1988-98

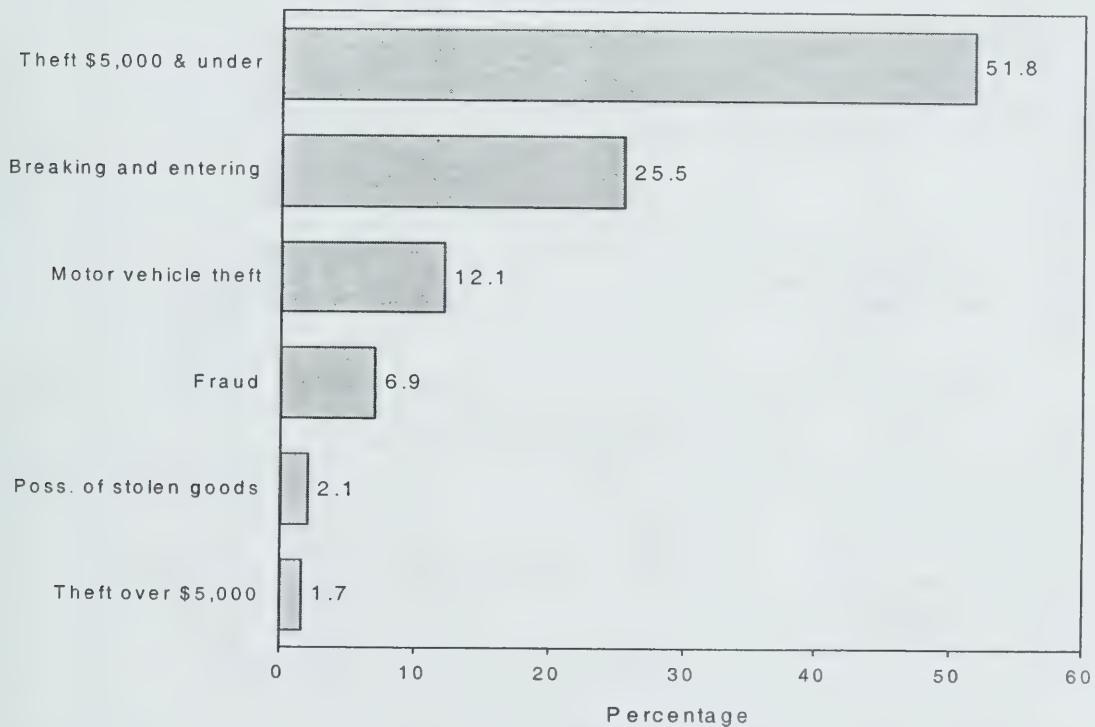


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, police reported a total of 28,952 incidents of robbery, accounting for 96 incidents per 100,000 population. The 1998 rate is a decrease of 3% from 1997.
- While robberies involving firearms have generally been falling since 1991, including an 8% decrease in 1998, robberies involving weapons other than firearms (e.g. knives or blunt objects) have shown the largest increases.
- In 1998, 18% of robbery incidents involved firearms, 36% involved other offensive weapons and 46% involved no weapon.

Figure 2.6

## Property Crime Categories, Canada, 1998

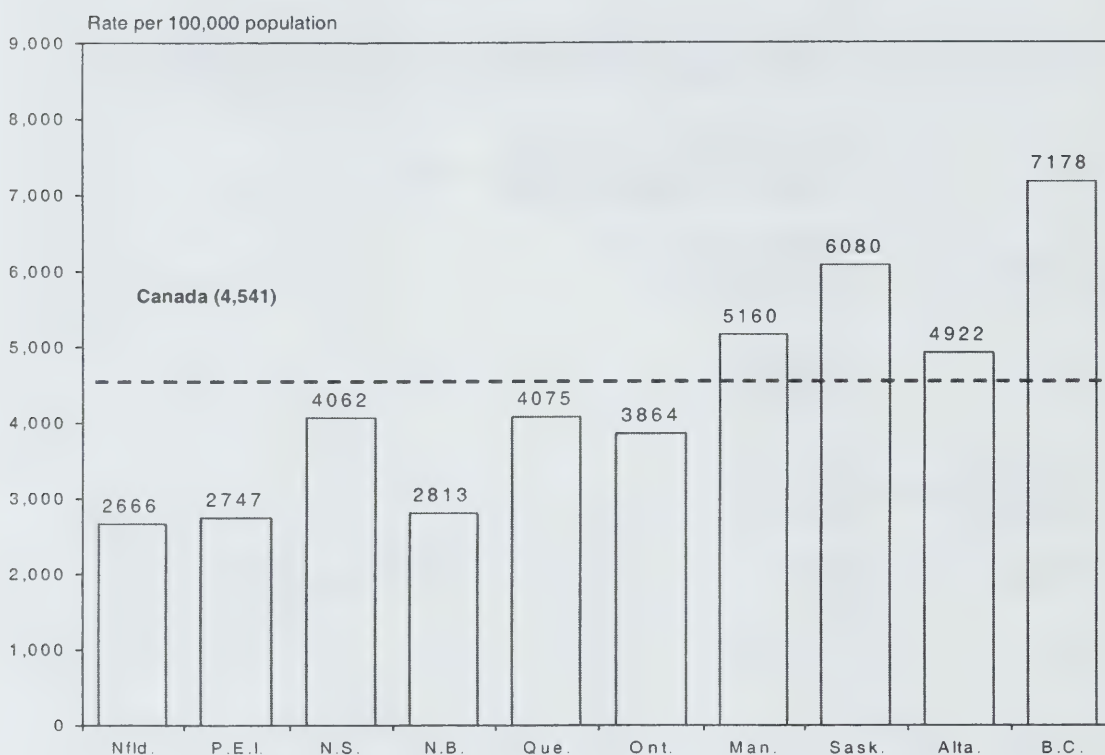


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, there were approximately 1.38 million property crime incidents corresponding to a rate of 4,541 per 100,000 population.
- Theft of \$5,000 and under accounted for over half (52%) of all property crimes, while break and enter represented one-quarter (25%). The remaining categories were motor vehicle theft (12%), fraud (7%), possession of stolen goods (2%) and theft over \$5,000 (2%).

Figure 2.7

## Property Crime, Canada and the Provinces, 1998



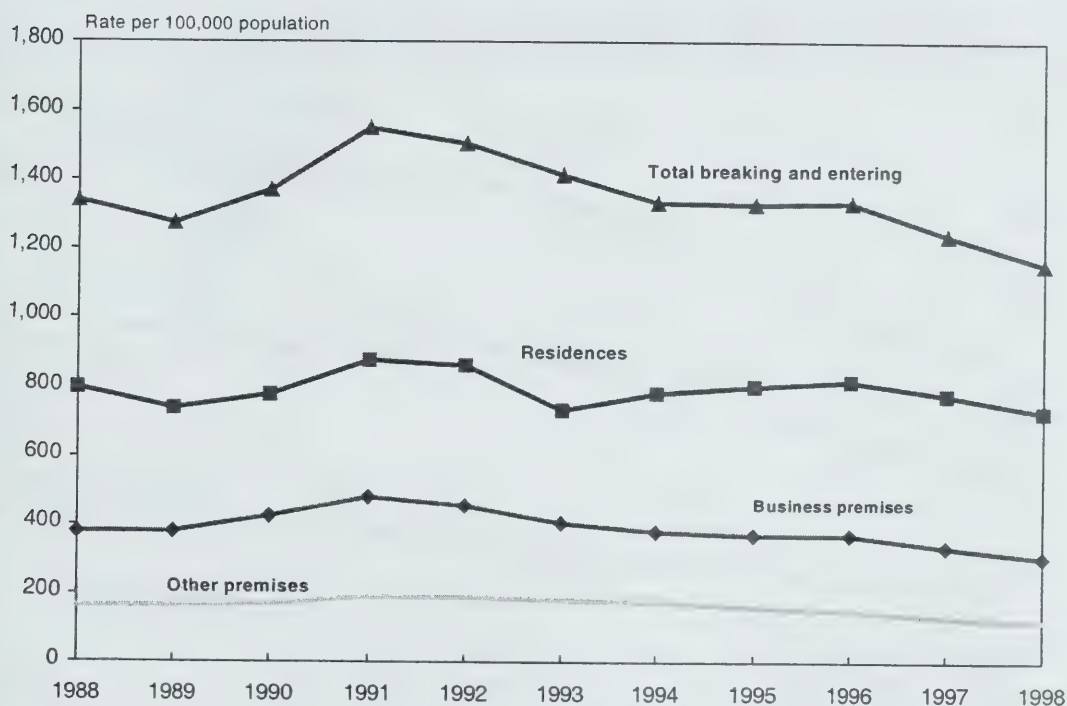
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- With the exception of Newfoundland (+3%), rates of property crime dropped in all provinces in 1998. Prince Edward Island (-14%), Ontario (-9%), British Columbia (-8%) and New Brunswick (-8%) experienced the largest declines.
- In 1998, British Columbia reported the highest rate of property crime (7,178 per 100,000 population), despite a decrease over the past two years. Following the general historical pattern, Newfoundland reported the lowest rate (2,666 per 100,000), followed closely by Prince Edward Island (2,747).
- British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan were the only provinces to show a higher rate than the national rate (4,541) in 1998.



Figure 2.8

## Breaking and Entering Incidents, by Type, Canada, 1988-98

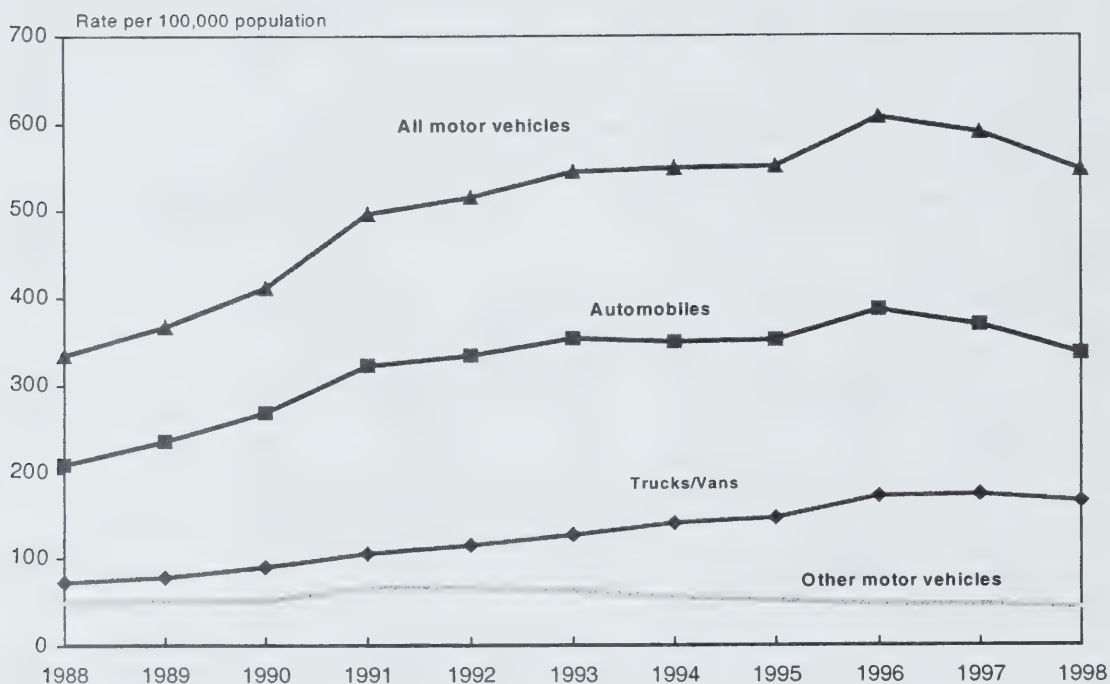


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, police reported 350,176 reported incidents of breaking and entering (B&E) or a rate of 1,156 incidents per 100,000 population.
- The trend of B&E rates has been generally falling since 1991, including a 7% decrease in both 1997 and 1998. The rate of B&E's decreased in all three categories in 1998: residential B&E dropped 6%; commercial B&E declined 9%; and other types of B&E decreased 6%.
- While youth 12 to 17 years of age accounted for 28% of persons charged with property crimes in 1998, they made up 40% of those charged with B&E.

Figure 2.9

## Motor Vehicle Theft, by Type of Vehicle, Canada, 1988-98

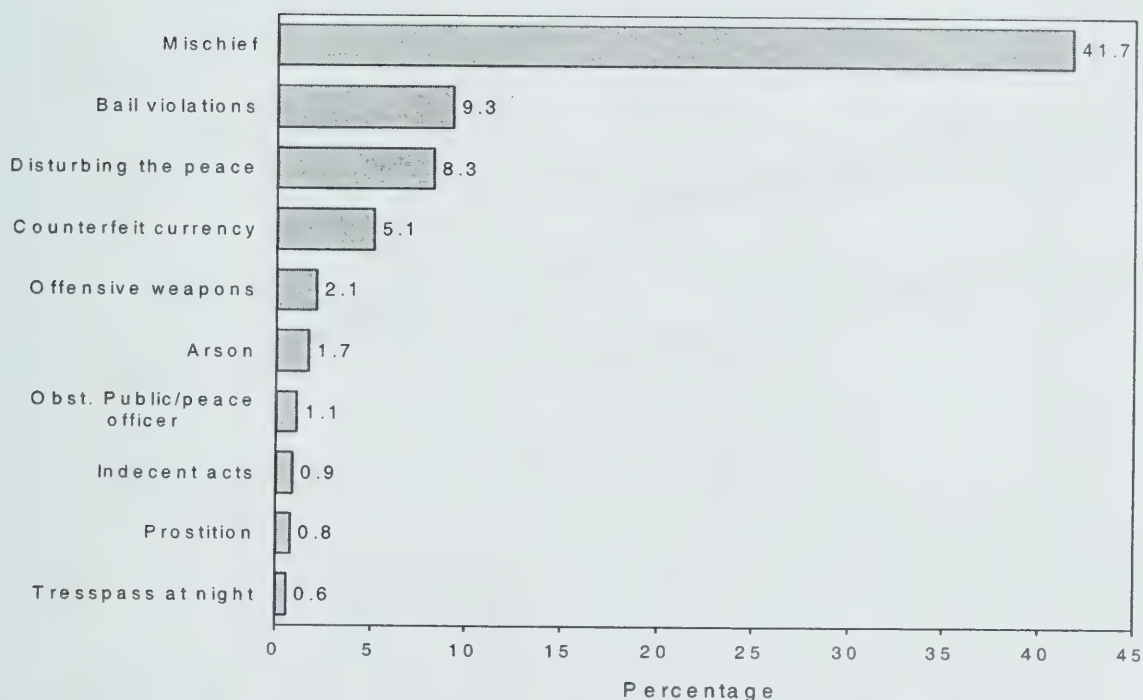


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, motor vehicle thefts accounted for 1 in 10 property crimes (165,799 incidents). After steady growth for over a decade, the rate of motor vehicle theft decreased for a second consecutive year in 1998 (-7%). The current rate, however, is still much higher (+64%) than 10 years ago.
- There has been a large increase in the number of "trucks" stolen in recent years, which includes mini-vans and sport-utility vehicles. In 1998, however, the theft of trucks dropped for the first time in 15 years.
- Motor vehicle theft, as was the case with B&E, is generally described as a youth crime. In 1998, 42% of persons charged with motor vehicle thefts were youths aged 12 to 17 years. In comparison, youths accounted for 22% of persons charged with all other *Criminal Code* offences.

Figure 2.10

## Selected "Other" Criminal Code Categories, Canada, 1998

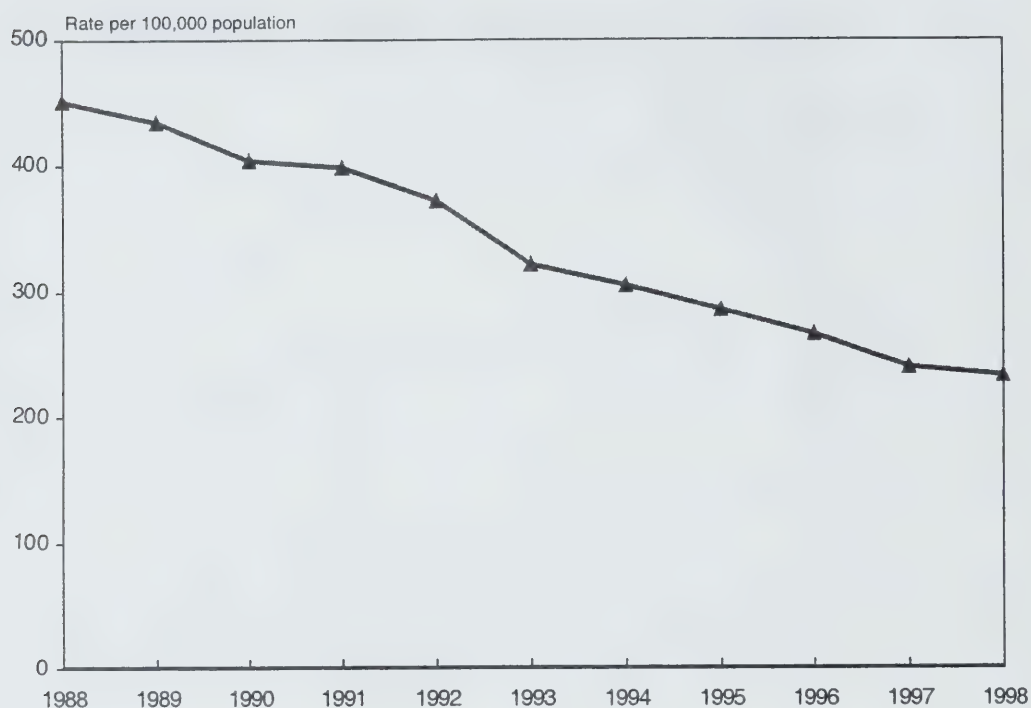


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- The 783,631 *Criminal Code* crimes that are not in the violent or property crime categories are reported under the category of "*Other Criminal Code*". These incidents include such crimes as mischief, weapon offences, prostitution, arson, bail violations and disturbing the peace.
- "Other Criminal Code" incidents account for 3 in 10 *Criminal Code* offences. Mischiefs accounted for close to 40% of these incidents.

Figure 2.11

## Rate of Persons Charged with Impaired Driving, Canada, 1988-98

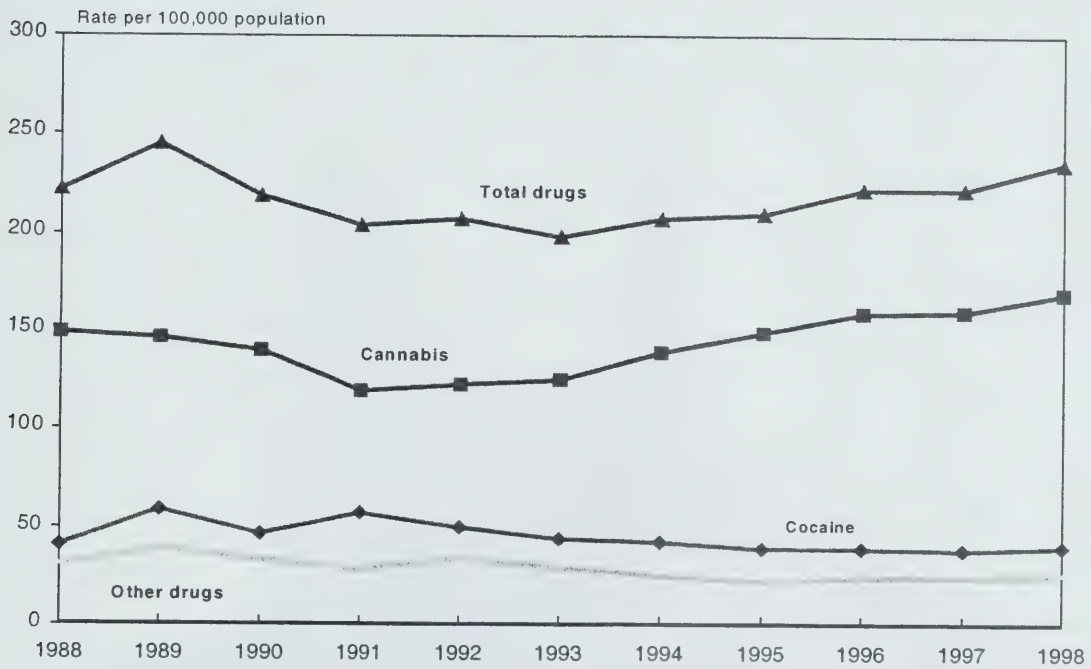


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- Impaired driving offences include impaired operation of a motor vehicle, boat or aircraft causing death or bodily harm; driving with over 80 mg. of alcohol per 100 ml of blood; and failing to provide a breath and/or blood sample when requested by a police officer.
- In 1998, police charged 70,587 persons with impaired driving, a decline of 3% from 1997, and a continuation of the long-term trend of declining rates.

Figure 2.12

## Drug Incidents, by Type of Drug, Canada, 1988-98



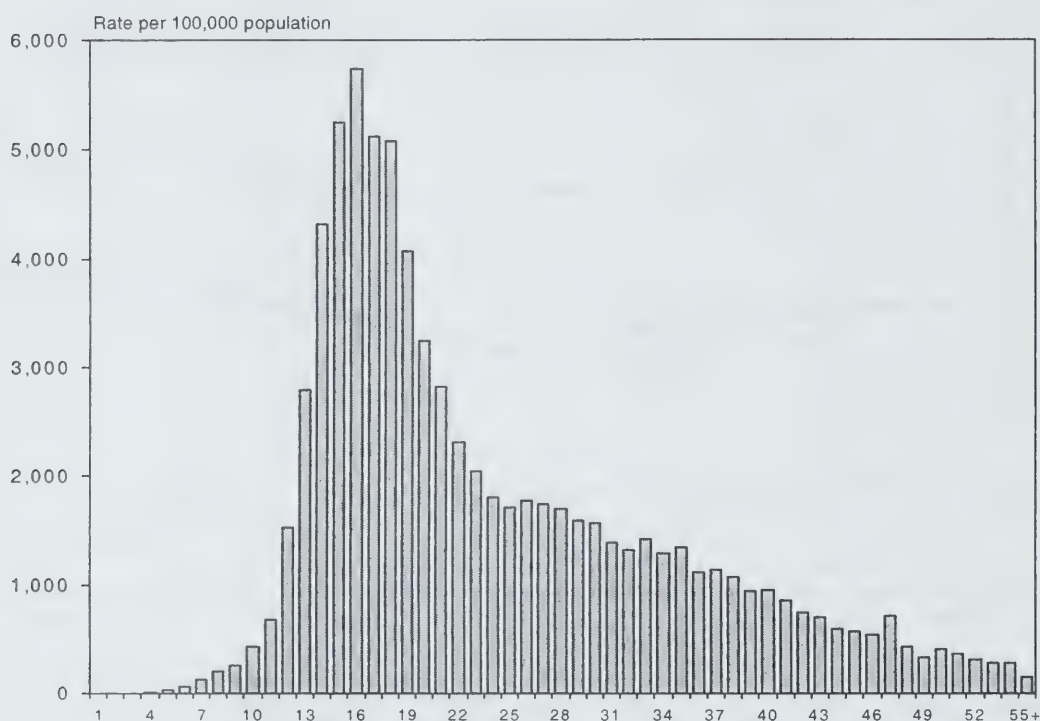
Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- In 1998, police reported 71,293 incidents related to the *Controlled Drugs and Substance Act* (CDSA). Fuelled by an increase in cannabis-related offences (+6%), the rate of total drug offences also increased 6% in 1998.
- Cannabis offences accounted for 7 in 10 drug-related incidents reported in 1998: 68% were for possession, 15% for cultivation, 15% for trafficking and 2% for importation.
- This latest rise in drug incidents continues the upward trend which began in 1993. Following a seven-year decline, the cocaine rate increased in 1998 (+5%). The heroin offence rate also rose 6% in 1998, negating the 5% decline recorded in 1997. The rate of offences involving other drugs climbed for a second consecutive year (+8%).
- As with prostitution and impaired driving, police-reported counts of drug offences are highly sensitive to police enforcement activities.



Figure 2.13

## Age-Specific Rates of Persons Accused of Property Crime, Sample of 169 Police Agencies, 1998



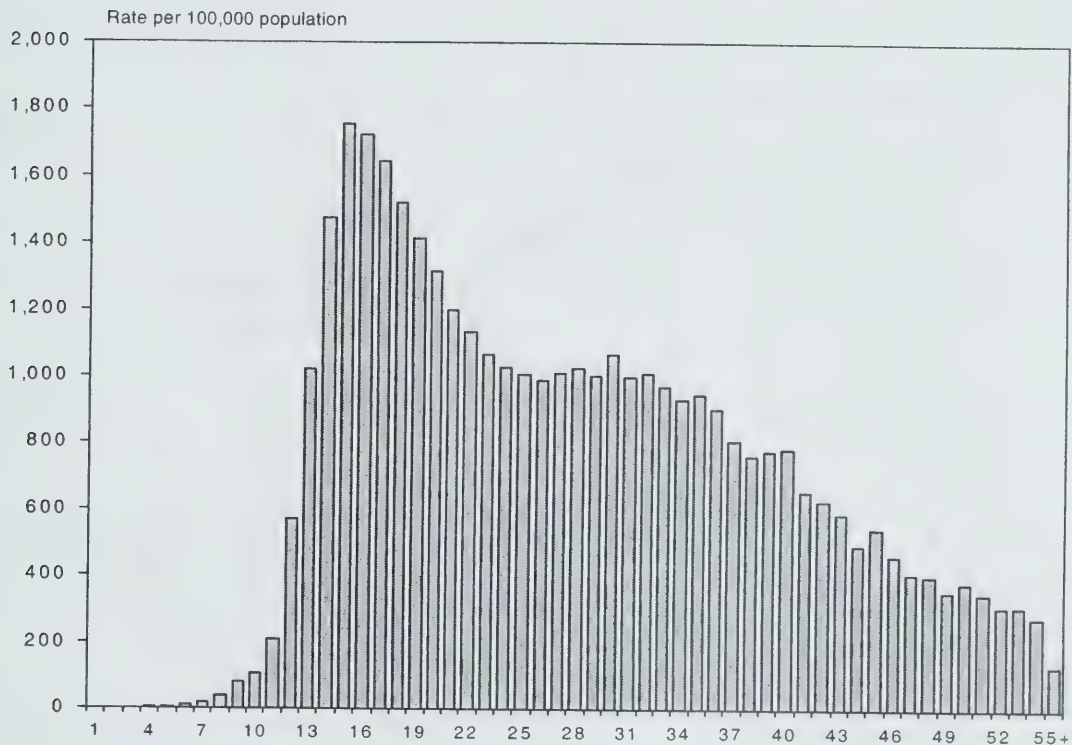
Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- An analysis of age-specific crime rates indicates that 14 to 19 year-olds are the highest risk group for committing both property and violent offences.
- In 1998, more than 1 in 3 persons accused of property crimes were aged 14 to 19 years. The age-specific rate drops dramatically after the age of 19, which is illustrated by a relatively low median age of 22 years.

Figure 2.14

## Age-Specific Rates of Persons Accused of Violent Crime, Sample of 169 Police Agencies, 1998

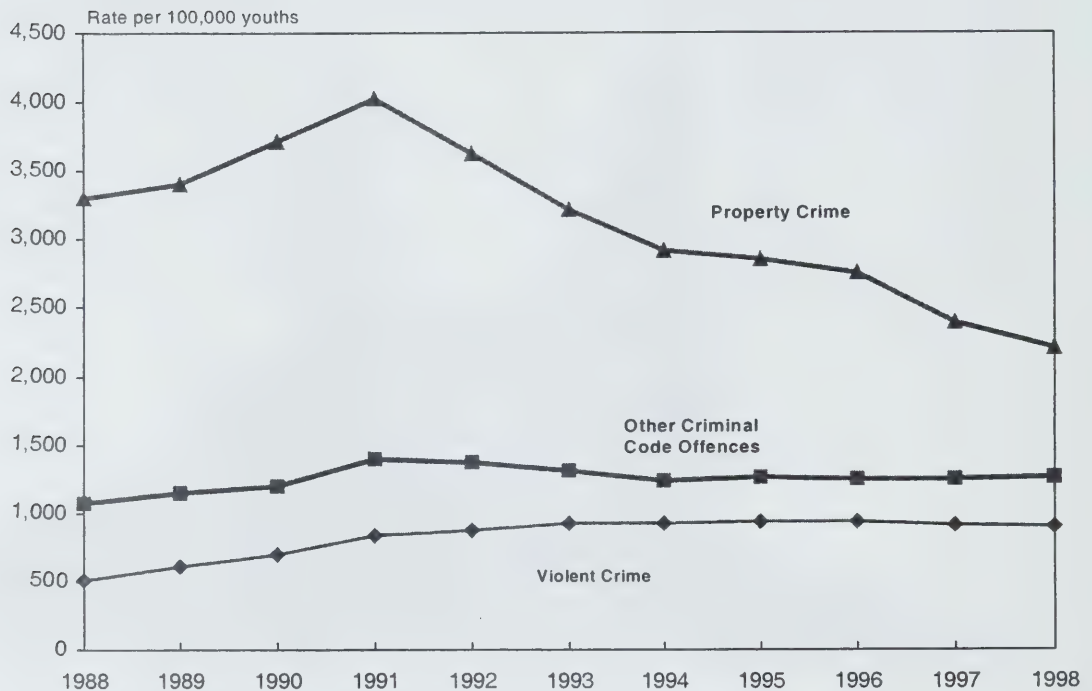


Source: Incident-based Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- An analysis of age-specific crime rates indicates that 14 to 19 year-olds are the highest risk group for committing both property and violent offences.
- In 1998, nearly one-quarter of persons accused of violent crimes were aged 14 to 19 years. The median age of these persons was 29 years.

Figure 2.15

## Rate of Youths Charged by Offence Category, Canada, 1988-98

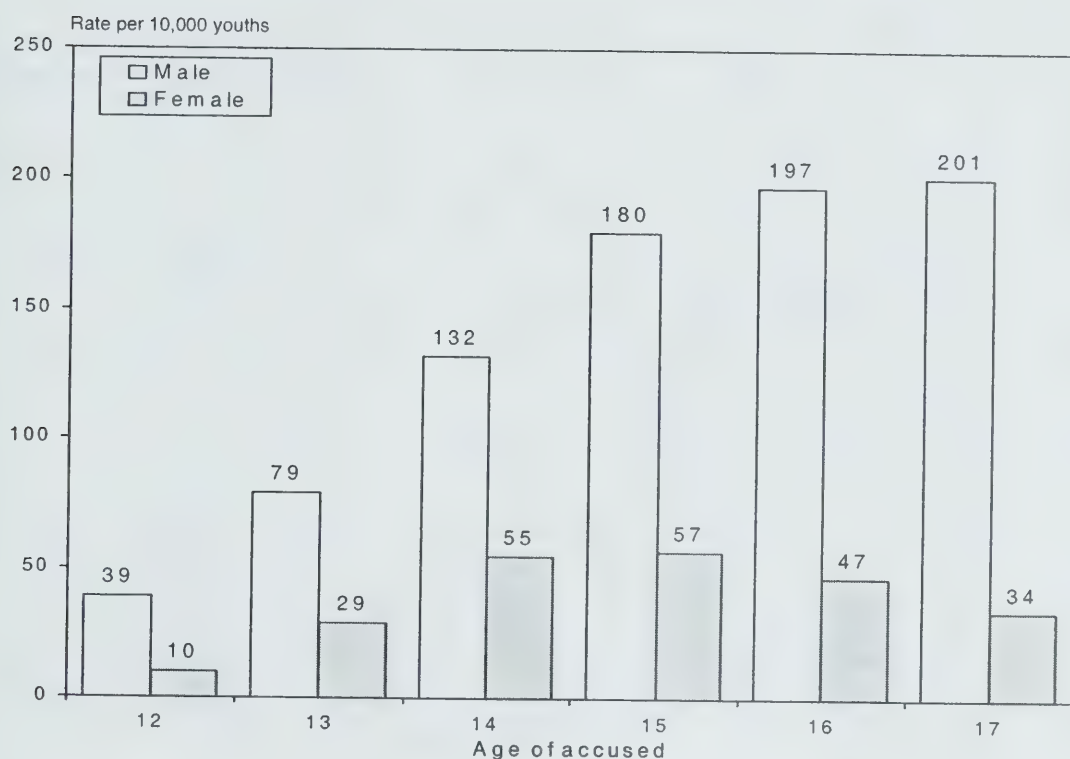


Source: Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no.85-002) Vol.19, No. 9, "Crime Statistics in Canada, 1998."

- Fuelled by a decrease in charges for property crimes (-8%), the overall rate of youths charged with *Criminal Code* offences dropped for a seventh consecutive year in 1998 (-4%). In total, 106,984 youths aged 12 to 17 years were charged with *Criminal Code* offences giving a rate of 4,363 per 100,000 youths, compared to 6,259 in 1991.
- Property crimes accounted for one-half (51%) of youth crime, compared to only 37% for all adults charged. A further 20% of youths were charged with violent crime, compared to 29% of adults. The remaining youths were charged with other *Criminal Code* offences, such as mischief and offences against the administration of justice (e.g.: bail violations or escapes from custody).

Figure 2.16

## Youth Charged with Violent Crimes, 1998

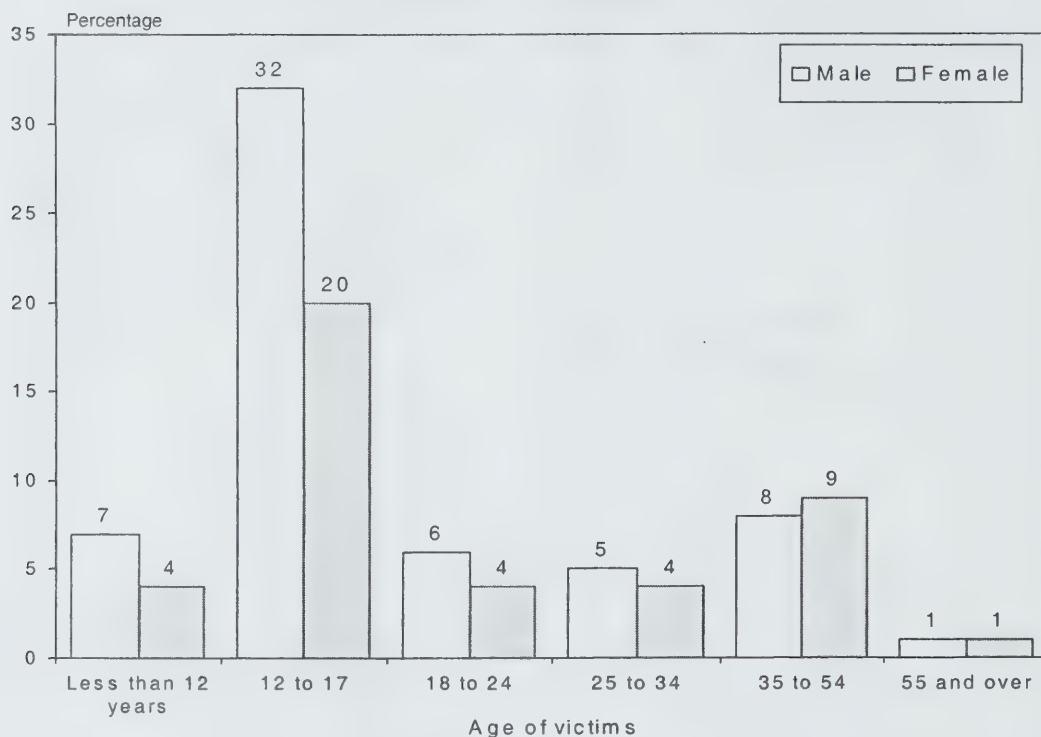


Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

Violent crime appears to peak in female youths at a younger age than in male youths. The rate of male youths accused of violent crimes increases with age, peaking at 17 years, while female accused peak at 14 and 15 years.

Figure 2.17

## Victims of Youth Violence, 1998



Note: Percentage may not add to 100% due to rounding.

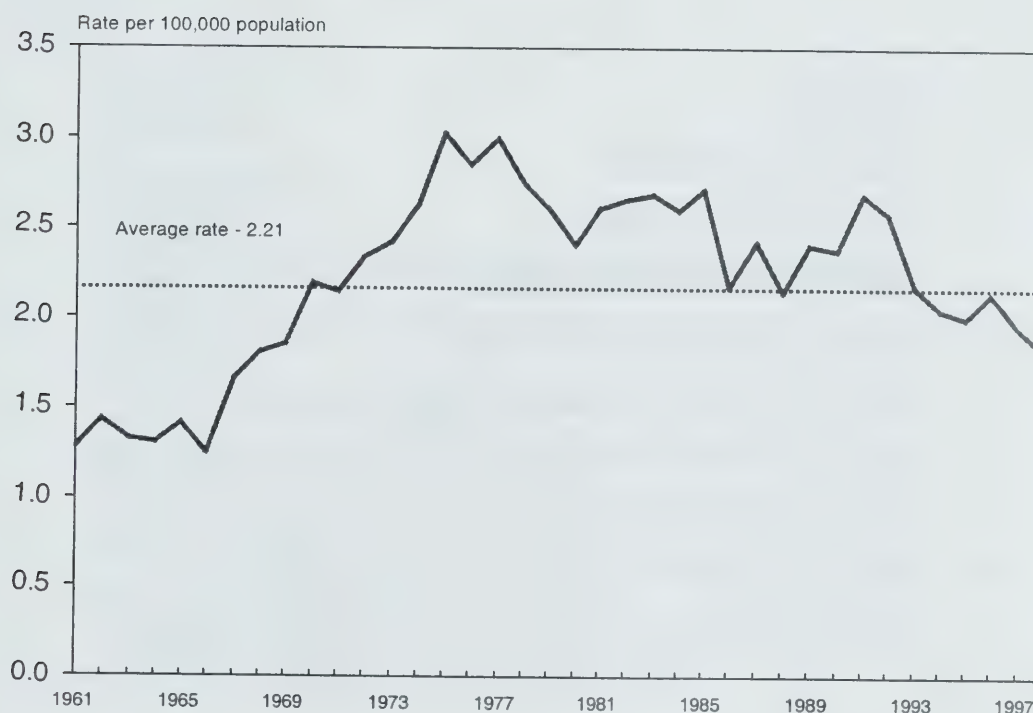
Source: Revised Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998

- Over half (52%) of victims of violent crimes committed by youths are other youths. Children younger than 12 years account for 11% of the victims, while adults account for the remaining 37% of the victims. Youths preying on the elderly is a relatively rare occurrence: only 2% of victims of youth violent crime in 1998 were 55 years of age or over.



Figure 2.18

## Homicide Rate, Canada, 1961-98



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

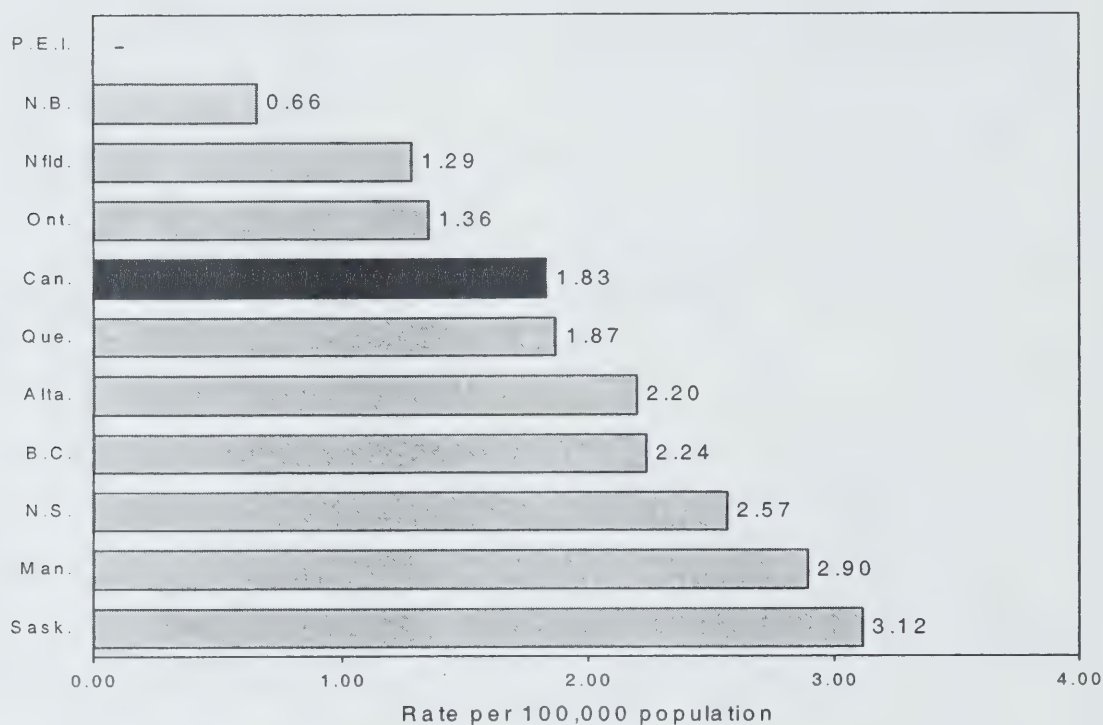
For more information, including data on the territories, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

- In 1998, there were 555 homicide offences reported, 31 fewer than the previous year, and well below the average of 641 for the previous decade. The 1998 homicide rate of 1.83 per 100,000 population represented a decrease of 6% from 1997, and was the lowest recorded since 1968.
- Since 1961, when national homicide statistics were first collected, there have been two distinct trends. After several years of stability, the homicide rate increased steadily from 1.25 per 100,000 population in 1966 to a peak of 3.03 in 1975, an increase of 142%. From 1975 to 1998, despite yearly fluctuations, the homicide rate has gradually declined, reaching a rate of 1.83 in 1998, a decrease of 40% compared to 1975.
- Homicide accounted for 0.02% of the almost three million *Criminal Code* incidents reported to police in 1998. By comparison, there were nearly one and one-half times more attempted murders, almost seven times more suicides<sup>1</sup>, and 400 times as many assaults as homicides.
- The U.S. homicide rate (6.30) has historically been three to four times higher than that of Canada; however, the U.S. rate has also been recently declining. Canada's homicide rate continues to be higher than many European countries.

<sup>1</sup> Causes of Death, Catalogue 84-208, Health Statistics Division, Statistics Canada, 1999.

Figure 2.19

## Homicide Rate, Canada and the Provinces, 1998



- Nil or zero.

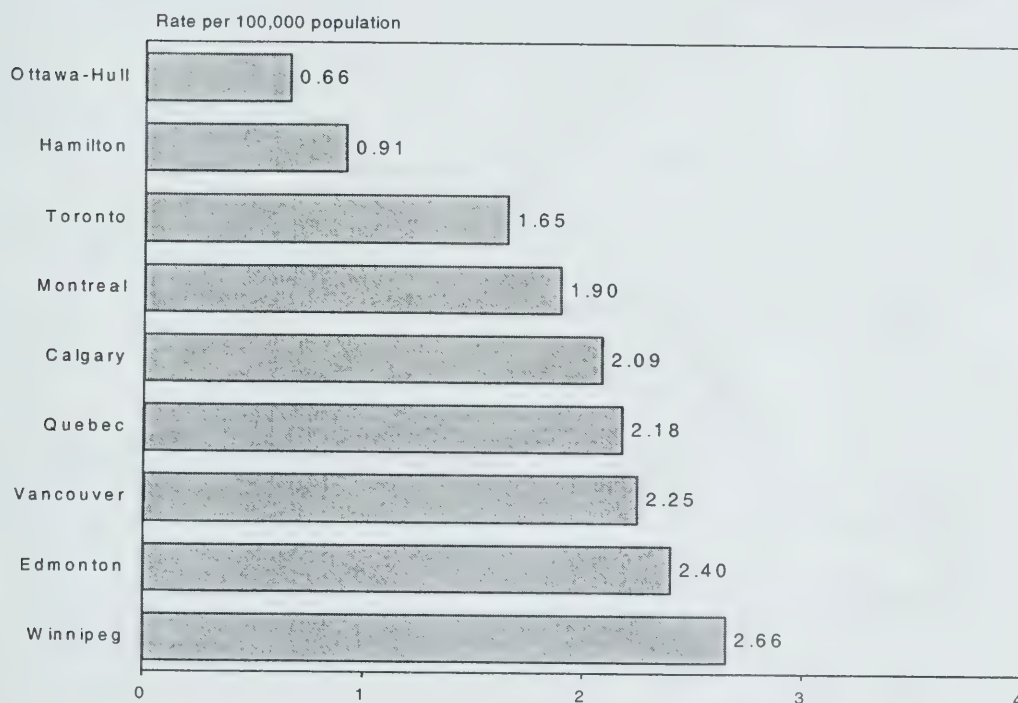
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

For more information, including data on the territories, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

- Saskatchewan had the highest provincial rate in 1998, followed by Manitoba. The lowest rates were in Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.
- Most provinces reported a decrease or no change in the number of homicides in 1998, with the largest decreases in British Columbia and Ontario.
- Following the historical trend, 1998 provincial homicide rates were generally higher in the west than in the east.

Figure 2.20

## Homicide Rate by Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)\*, 500,000+ Population, 1998



\* An urbanized core with at least 500,000 population.

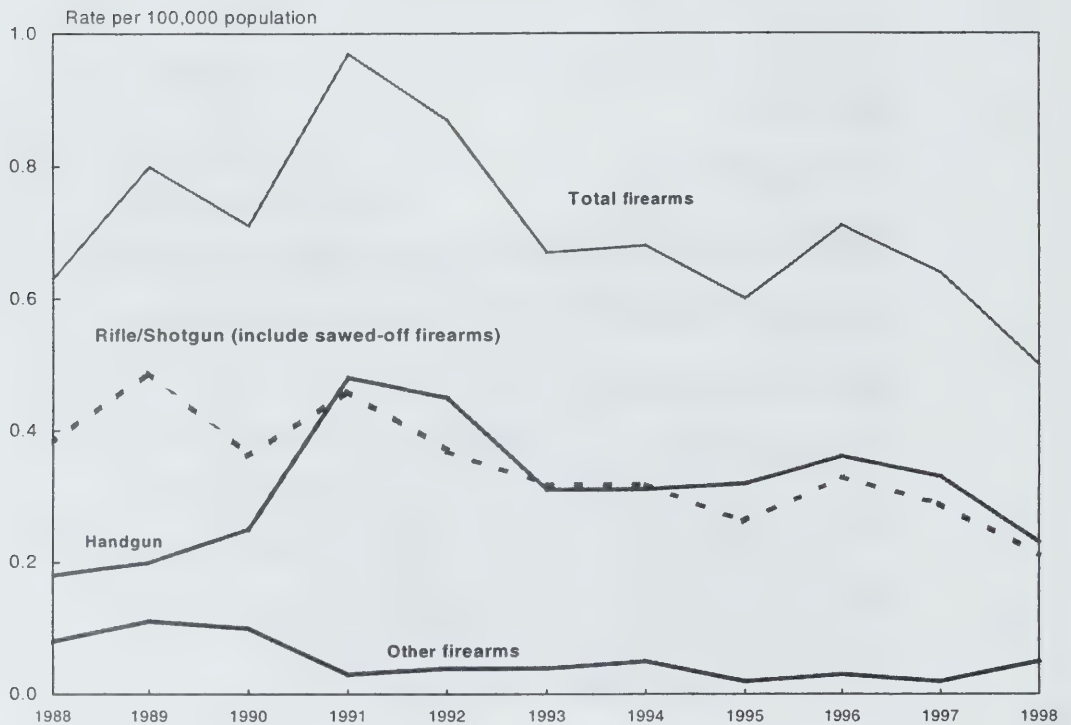
Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

- Among the nine largest CMAs, Winnipeg, despite a rate lower than its previous ten-year average, reported the highest rate (2.66), followed by Edmonton (2.40), and Vancouver (2.25). Compared to the average rates for the previous ten years, Edmonton's and Vancouver's rates were 23% and 28% lower, respectively.
- The lowest rates were reported for Ottawa-Hull (0.66) and Hamilton (0.91), their lowest rates since CMA data were first tabulated in 1981.
- Historically, the average rate of homicide has been higher in Winnipeg, Edmonton, and Vancouver than in other census metropolitan areas with populations of 500,000 or more.

Figure 2.21

## Rate of Firearm Homicides, Canada, 1988-98

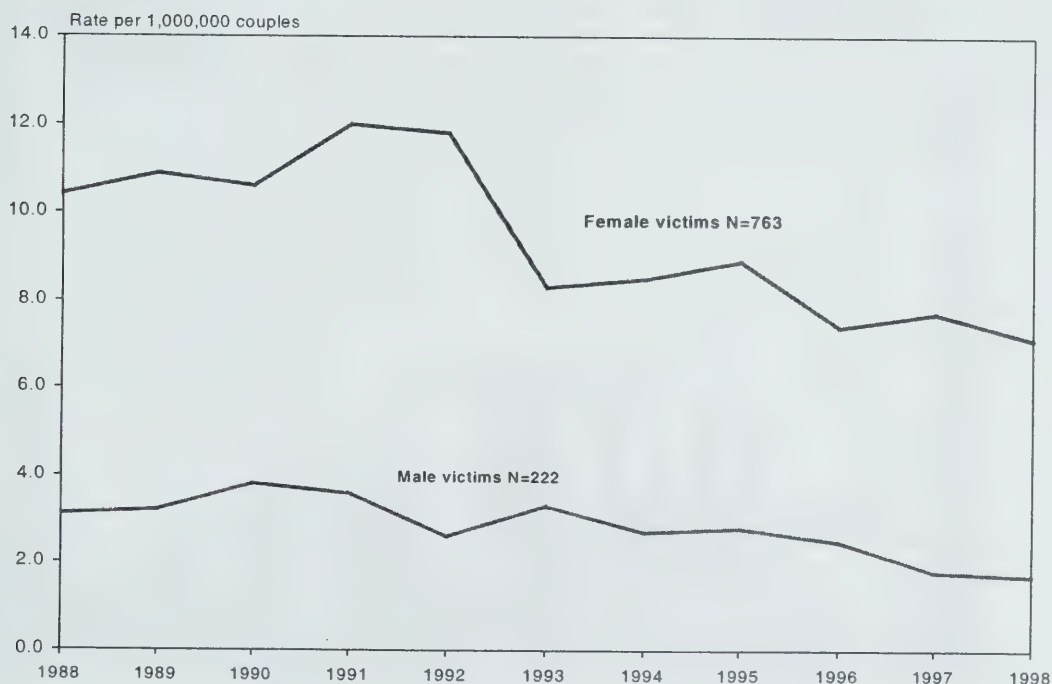


Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

- Shooting has been the most common method used in homicides since 1961, except in 1990, 1995 and in 1998, when stabbing was the most common method.
- Between 1974 and 1990, one in ten homicides were committed each year with handguns. Since 1991, handguns have accounted for about one in every six homicides.
- The use of rifles/shotguns (including sawed-off firearms) in homicides has generally been decreasing, from a rate of 0.5 per 100,000 population in 1989 to the present rate of 0.2 in 1998.

Figure 2.22

## Spousal Homicide Rate, Canada, 1988-98



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

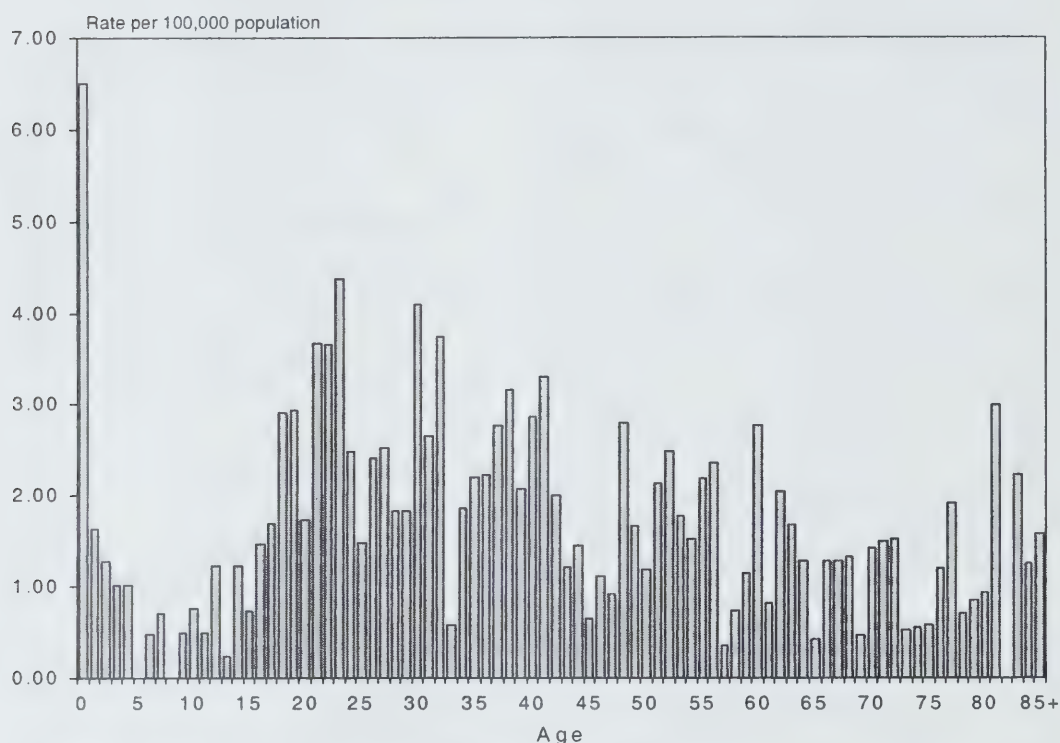
- Homicides continue to be committed primarily by someone known to the victim. In 1998, 40% of victims were killed by family members, and 45% by acquaintances. The proportion of homicides committed by strangers represented 15% of all homicides and has remained relatively stable over the past ten years.
- Spousal homicides account for one out of every six solved homicides. In 1998, 70 persons were killed by a spouse, down from an average of 93 victims since 1991. Four in five spousal homicide victims were women.
- Despite yearly fluctuations, the rate of spousal homicide has gradually declined over the period, from 12 wives per million couples<sup>1</sup> in 1991 to 7 per million in 1998. For husbands, the rate has dropped from four per million couples in 1990 to two per million in 1998.

<sup>1</sup> Includes married, common-law, separated or divorced couples.



Figure 2.23

## Homicide Age-Specific Victim Rates, 1998



Source: Homicide Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No. 10 "Homicide in Canada - 1998."

- In 1998, the age of greatest risk of being a homicide victim was during the first year of life. This pattern does not hold true for all years, but was also the case in 1993 and 1994.
- The number of infants under one year of age who were killed in 1998, almost doubled from 13 in 1997 to 23 in 1998. The majority were killed by parents. During the previous ten years, there has been an annual average of 12 victims of homicide under one year of age, accounting for between 2.5% and 5.0% of all victims.
- In 1995, most provinces legislated mandatory coroner inquests into deaths of children less than two years of age, which may have resulted in the increased reporting and classification of these cases as homicides.

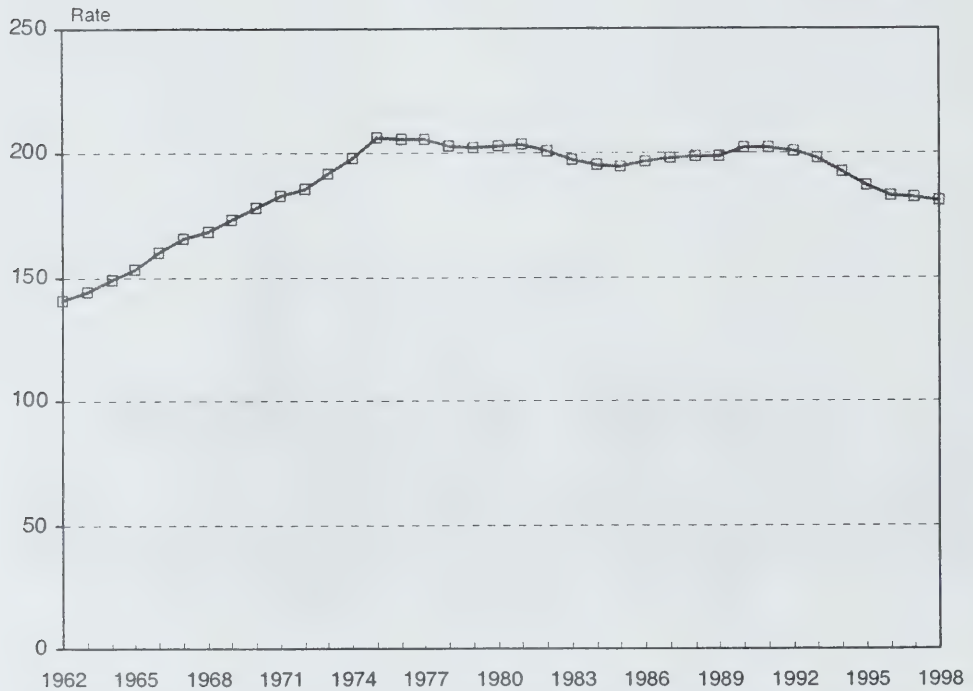


**SECTION 3:**

**POLICE PERSONNEL  
AND  
EXPENDITURES**

Figure 3.1

### Police Officers per 100,000 Population, Canada, 1962-98

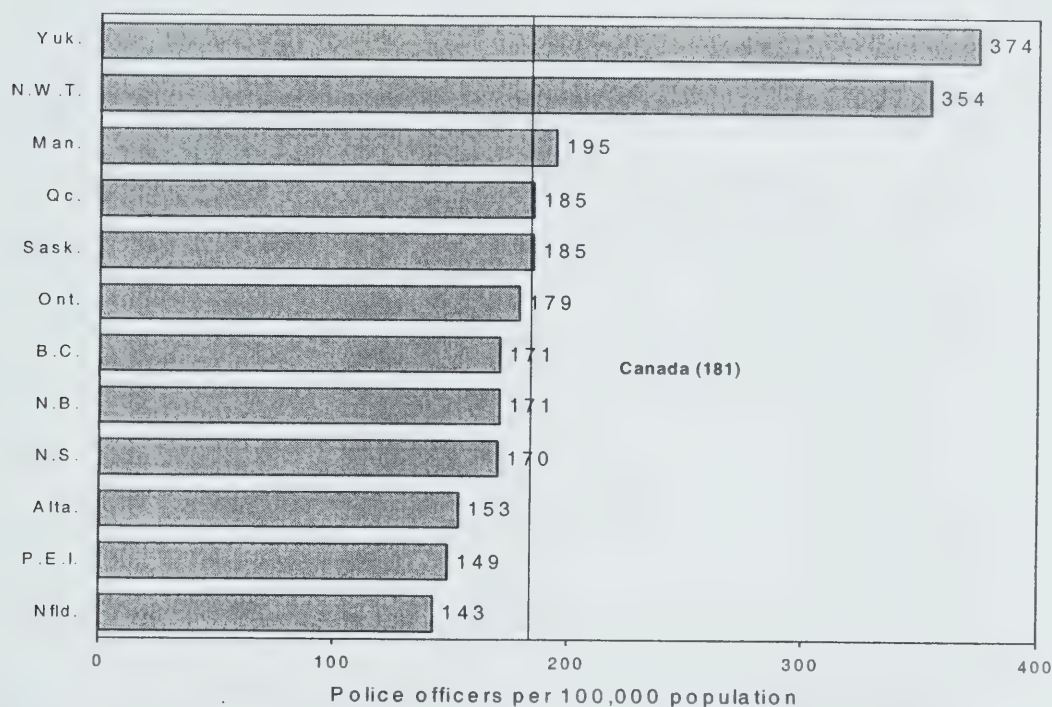


Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- The number of police officers in Canada in 1998 (54,722) remained virtually unchanged from the previous year.
- Between 1962 and 1975, the number of police officers per 100,000 population showed consistent increases from 141 to 206. However, from 1975 to 1985, this ratio decreased slightly to 195 police officers per 100,000 population.
- In 1998, there were 181 police officers per 100,000 population, the lowest rate since 1970.

Figure 3.2

## Police Officers per 100,000 Population, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1998

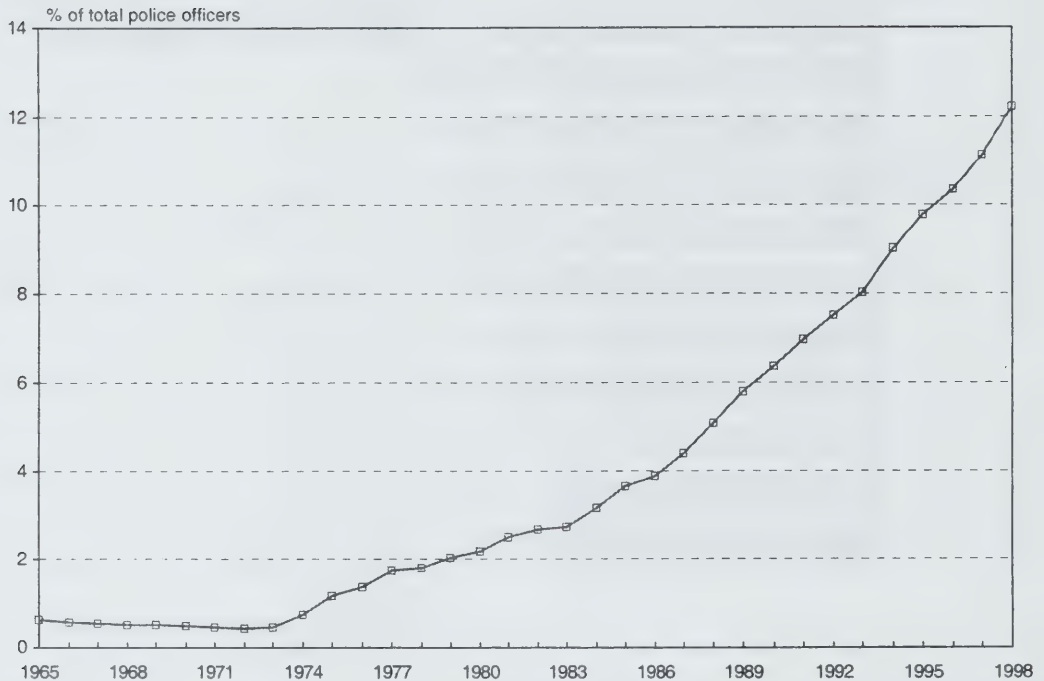


Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- Yukon (374) and the Northwest Territories (354) had the highest number of police officers per 100,000 population in 1998. Among the provinces, Manitoba (195) had the highest, while Newfoundland (143) and Prince Edward Island (149) had the lowest.
- The territories have always had higher per capita rates than the provinces due to their sparse populations over immense areas. Up until 1995, Quebec and Ontario have generally had the highest number of police officers per capita, among the provinces. Over the last few years, these provinces have experienced sharp declines while Saskatchewan and Manitoba have had minor increases.

Figure 3.3

## Proportion of Female Police Officers, Canada, 1965-98



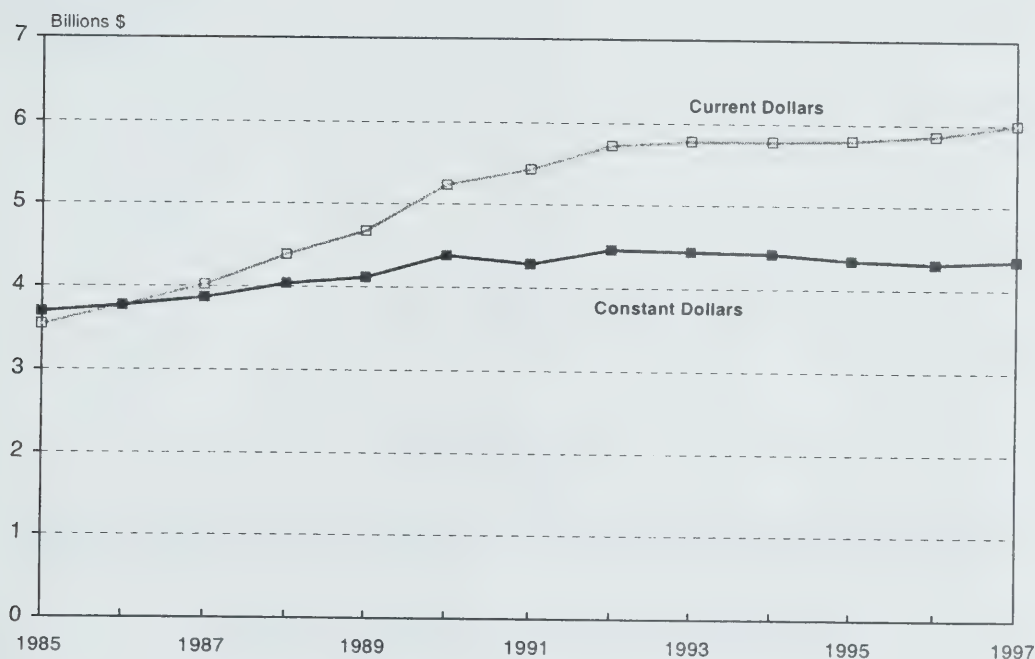
Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see *Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada* - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- Efforts to recruit more women police officers, particularly in recent years, have shown some positive results. Women accounted for 12% of police officers in Canada in 1998.
- While the number of male police officers dropped 1% from 1997, the number of female officers increased by 10%.
- The proportion of female officers has been increasing steadily since the mid-1970's, after remaining at less than 1% during the 1960's and early 1970's.



Figure 3.4

## Current and Constant Dollar Spending on Policing, Canada, 1985-97



Source: Police Administration Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada - (catalogue 85F0019XPE)

- Policing expenditures totalled \$5.99 billion in 1997, up 2.3% from 1996. Even after adjusting for inflation, policing expenditures increased 0.6%.
- Following four years of small declines in policing expenditures (adjusted for inflation), 1997 marked the first constant dollar increase in five years.
- The \$5.99 billion spent on policing in Canada in 1997 represents a cost of \$200 per Canadian.



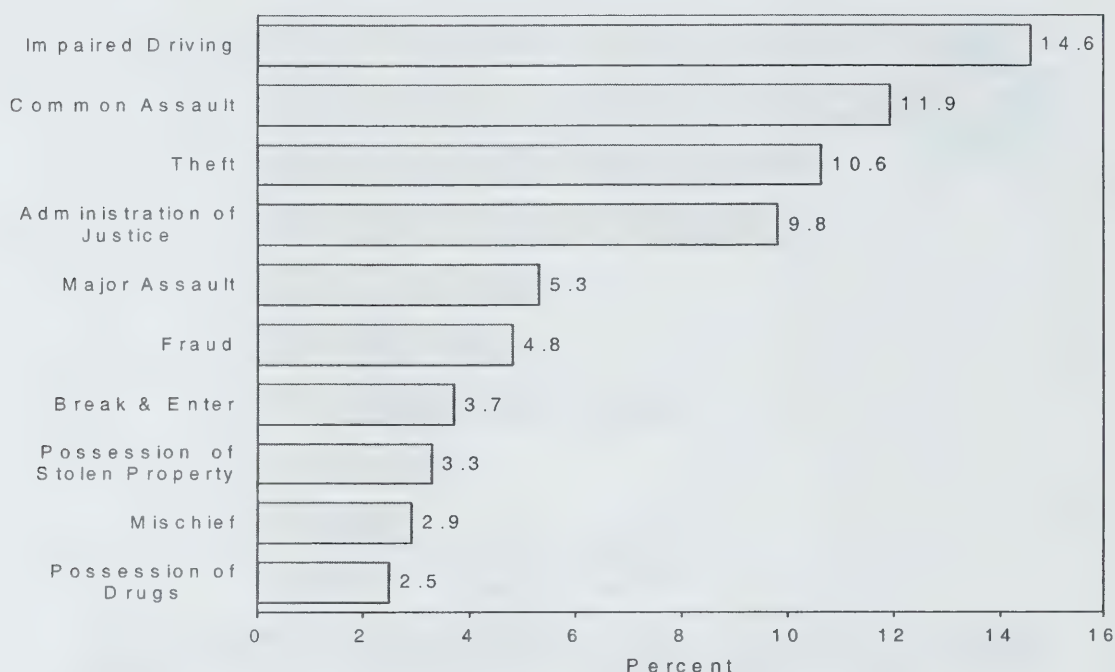


**SECTION: 4**

**ADULT  
PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL  
CRIMINAL COURT  
ACTIVITY IN CANADA**

Figure 4.1

## Ten Most Frequent Adult Criminal Court Cases, 1997-98



Note: Cases by most serious offence. The ten most frequent offences account for 70% of the total number of cases.

Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

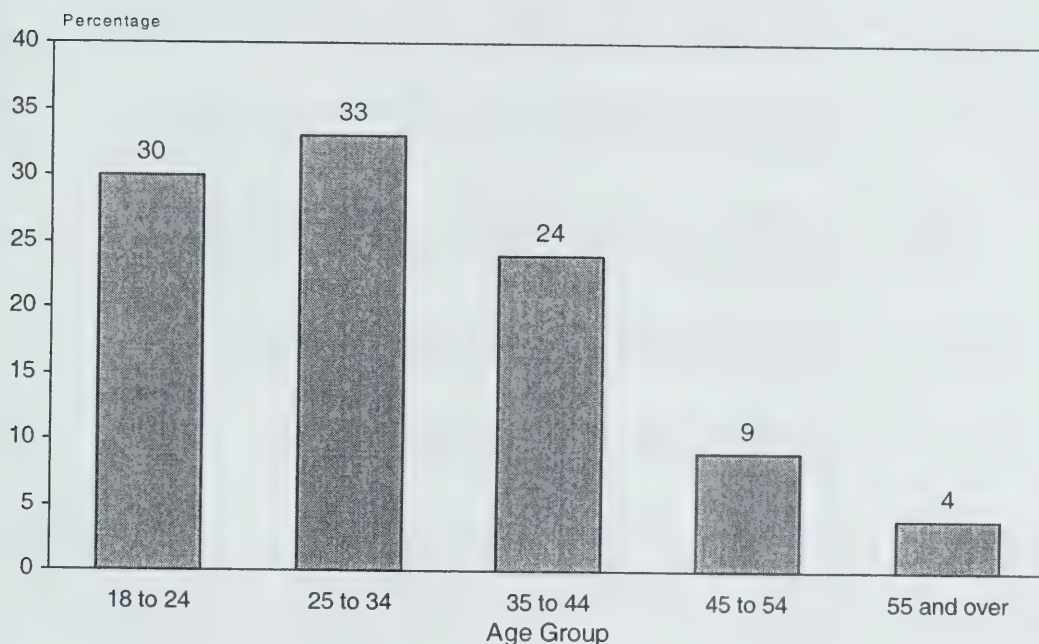
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- In 1997-98, participating jurisdictions reported 83,651 cases involving Crimes Against Persons (20% of total caseload), 104,782 cases of Crimes Against Property (26%), 109,236 Other Criminal Code cases (27%), 68,384 Traffic cases (17%), 17,864 Drug-Related cases (4%), and 27,659 Other Federal Statutes cases (7%).
- The most frequently occurring offence in adult criminal court was impaired driving which comprised 15% of all offences and nearly 90% of all Traffic cases. The second most frequent offence was common assault, which represented 12% of all court cases and 58% of all Crimes Against Persons (also referred to as violent offences).
- There was considerable variation across jurisdictions in the types of offences that made up court caseload. Crimes Against Property accounted for a greater proportion of the caseload in both Newfoundland and Alberta (28%). The proportion of these cases was lowest in Yukon (19%). Cases involving Crimes Against the Person also varied across jurisdictions, ranging from 17% of the total caseload in Prince Edward Island and Quebec to 41% in the Northwest Territories.

Figure 4.2

## Percentage of Cases Heard in Adult Criminal Court by Age Group, 1997-98



Note: Excludes 17,502 cases for which the accused was a company or the age was unknown. The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

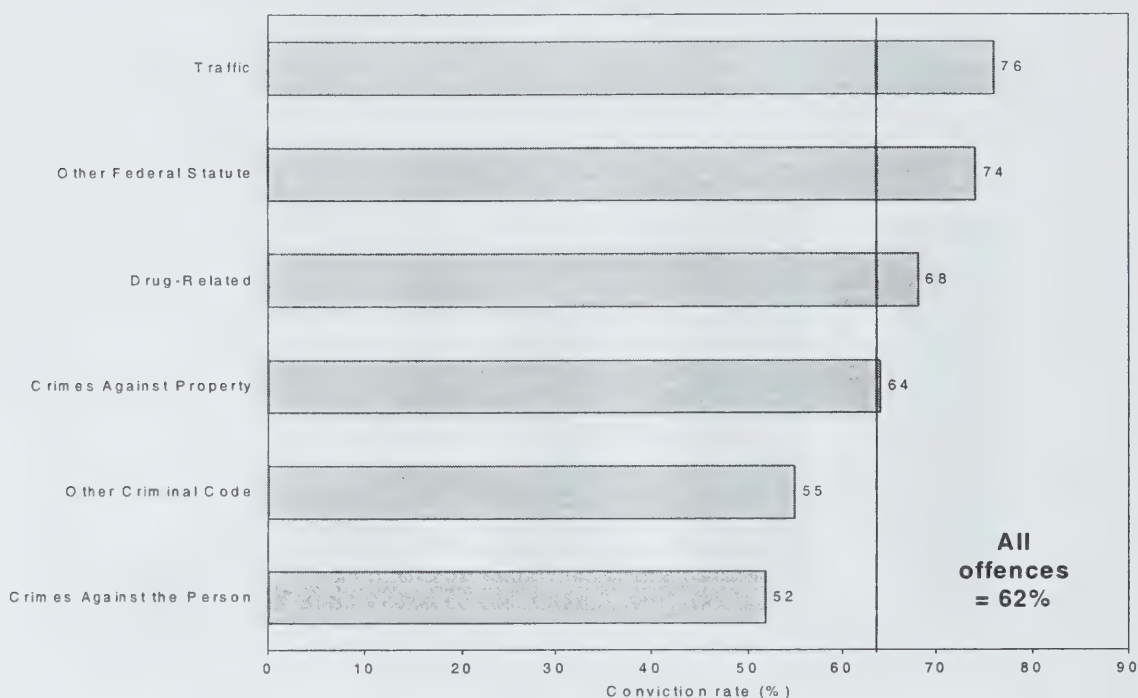
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- In general, younger accused are significantly over-represented in the courts, while older accused are significantly under-represented. For example, 18-24 year olds comprise 12% of the adult population, but represent 30% of the accused in adult criminal courts. Similarly, 25-34 year olds comprise 21% of the adult population, but make up 33% of the accused in criminal court. In contrast, persons in the 45 plus age group comprise 44% of the adult population, but represent only 14% of accused. Only in the 35-44 age category is representation in the population (23%) roughly consistent with representation in court (24%).
- The offences most frequently committed by 18-24 year olds included break and enter (55% of all break and enter cases), possession of stolen property (47%), robbery (45%), mischief/property damage (40%), and possession of drugs (40%). On the other hand, younger adults were less likely to appear in court for offences such as gaming (9% of all gaming cases), abduction (16%), morals-sexual (17%), and impaired driving (18%).



Figure 4.3

## Case Conviction Rates in Adult Criminal Court, 1997-98



Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

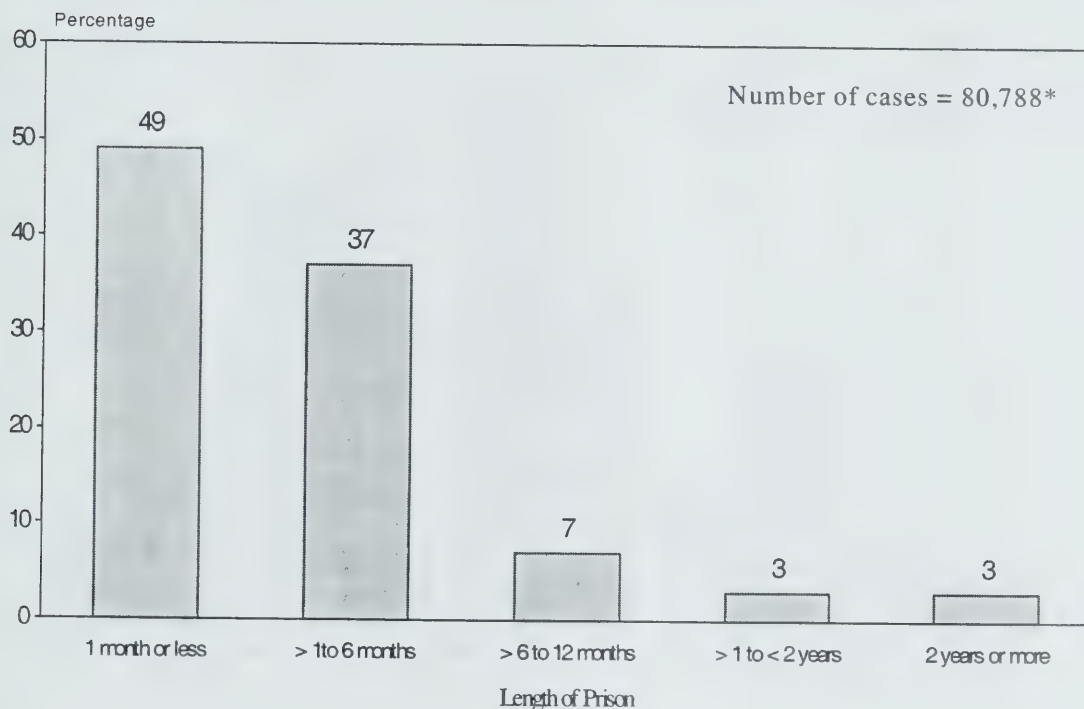
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1998.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- A finding of guilt for at least one charge in the case was reported in a total of 250,073 cases, or 62% of the cases tried in participating adult criminal courts during 1997-98. The final dispositions for the remaining cases included stay/withdrawn (31% of cases heard), other (4%), and acquittal (3%).
- For those cases reaching completion, the conviction rate was the highest for cases involving Traffic offences (76%) and Other Federal Statutes (74%), and lowest for cases involving Crimes Against the Person (52%).
- The proportion of cases resulting in a conviction ranged from 53% in Nova Scotia to 75% in Prince Edward Island and Quebec, and 76% in the Northwest Territories. The provinces/territories with the highest conviction rates, Prince Edward Island, Quebec, and the Northwest Territories, also had among the lowest stay/withdrawn rates, (22%, 10%, and 23% respectively). Conversely, the provinces with the lowest conviction rates, Nova Scotia (53%) and Ontario (57%) had the highest stay/withdrawn rates (37% and 41% respectively).

Figure 4.4

## Convicted Adult Criminal Court Cases by Length of Prison for the Most Serious Offence, 1997-98



Totals may not add due to rounding.

\* The prison term was unknown in 1,880 or 2% of the cases where a prison sentence was imposed.

Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

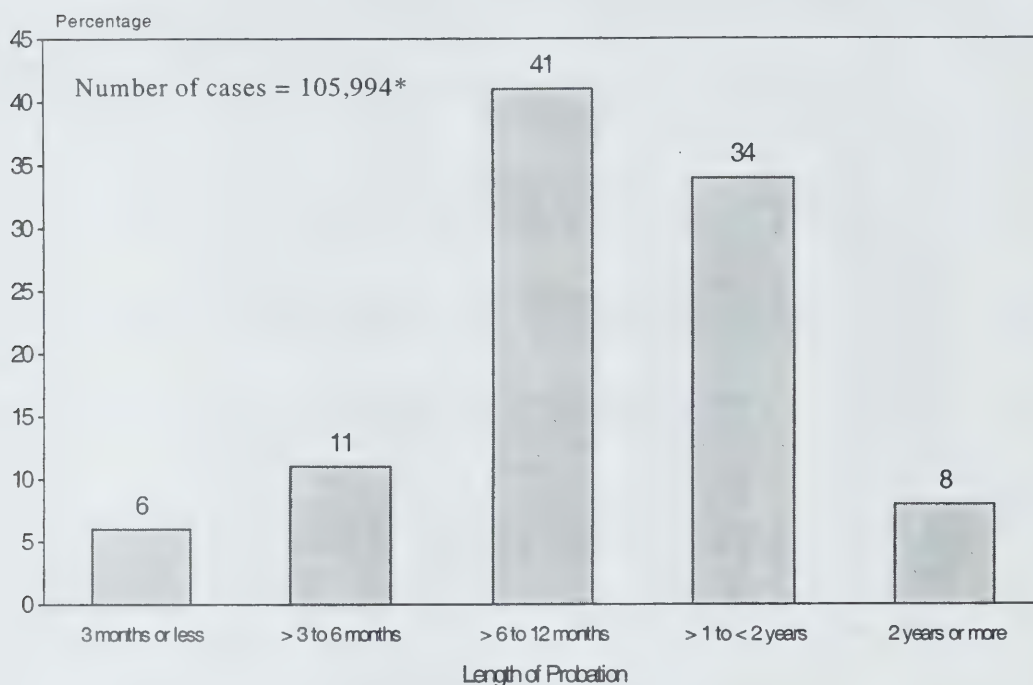
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- Prison is the most serious sentence handed out in adult criminal court and when given, is often the only sentence. In the nine participating jurisdictions, a prison sentence was imposed in 33% of all cases, and was the only sentence imposed in almost half of these cases.
- Of the cases resulting in prison, 49% of the terms were for one month or less, while 3% were for two years or more. The median sentence length for all cases receiving prison was 60 days. This figure represents a sharp increase from a 45 day median length in 1994-95.
- The types of offences receiving a lengthy prison sentence were serious in nature. In total there were twelve offences with a median prison sentence of 90 days or more. Seven of these were offences against the person (i.e., homicide and related, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and major assault), three were crimes against property (i.e., break and enter, arson, and fraud), one other Criminal Code offence (i.e., weapons), and one drug related offence (i.e., trafficking).

Figure 4.5

## Convicted Adult Criminal Court Cases by Length of Probation for the Most Serious Offence, 1997-98



\* The length of probation was unknown in 444 or 0.4% of cases where probation was ordered.

Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

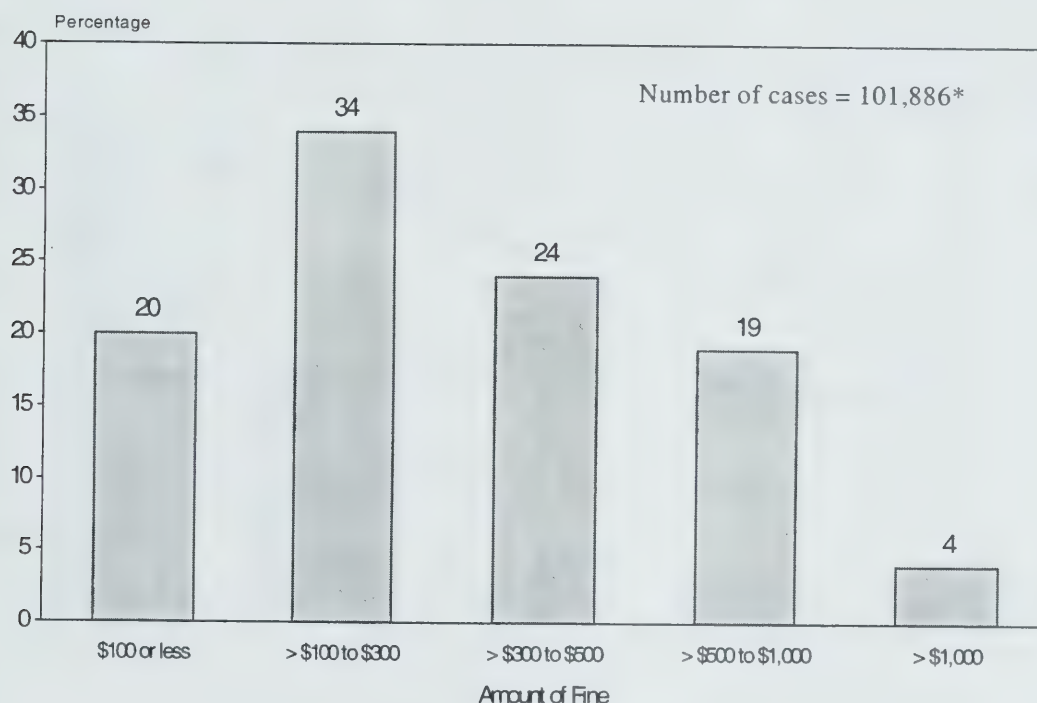
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- A sentence of probation was imposed in 43% of cases resulting in conviction. Of these cases, three-quarters had a probation sentence length that was between six and twenty-four months. Overall, the median length of probation was one year.
- There were eleven offences with a median probation sentence of 18 months or longer. The types of offences receiving lengthy probation orders were usually serious in nature, and were often given in combination with prison terms. This group of offences included eight crimes against the person (i.e., homicide and related, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping, sexual assault, sexual abuse, major assault, and abduction), two crimes against property (i.e., break and enter, and arson), and one drug related offence (i.e., trafficking).

Figure 4.6

## Convicted Adult Criminal Court Cases by Amount of Fine for the Most Serious Offence, 1997-98



\* The amount of the fine was unknown in 1,612 or 1% of cases where a fine was imposed.

Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

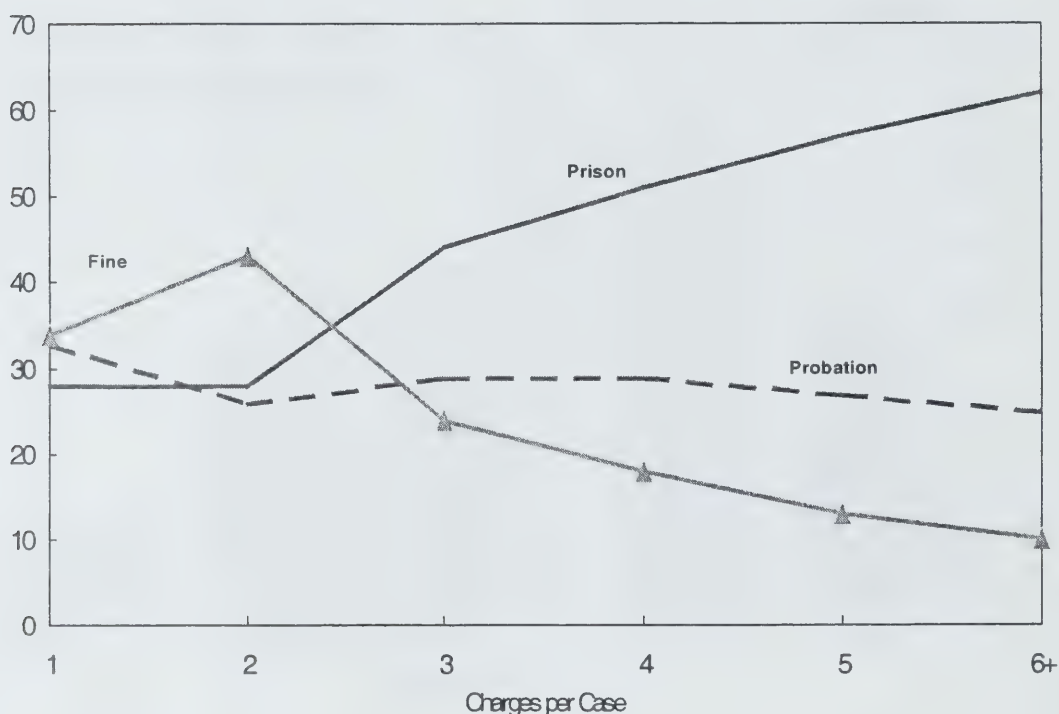
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- Cases receiving fines tend to be less serious than those receiving other penalties. When they are imposed, fines are frequently imposed as a single sanction. A fine was imposed in 41% of cases with convictions, and 42% of all the cases involving a fine had no other sanction associated with the case.
- In only 2% of the cases resulting in a prison sentence was the offender also ordered to pay a fine.
- Of the cases involving a fine, 54% were ordered to pay a fine of \$300 or less and 23% were fined more than \$500. The overall median fine amount was \$300.
- The median fine amount for Traffic offence cases was \$500. This was the largest median fine amount imposed for any offence category, and reflects the mandatory \$300 fine for first time impaired driving convictions. Approximately one-third (36%) of all fines were for impaired driving cases.



Figure 4.7

## Most Serious Sentence by Number of Charges in Convicted Adult Criminal Court Cases, 1997-98



Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

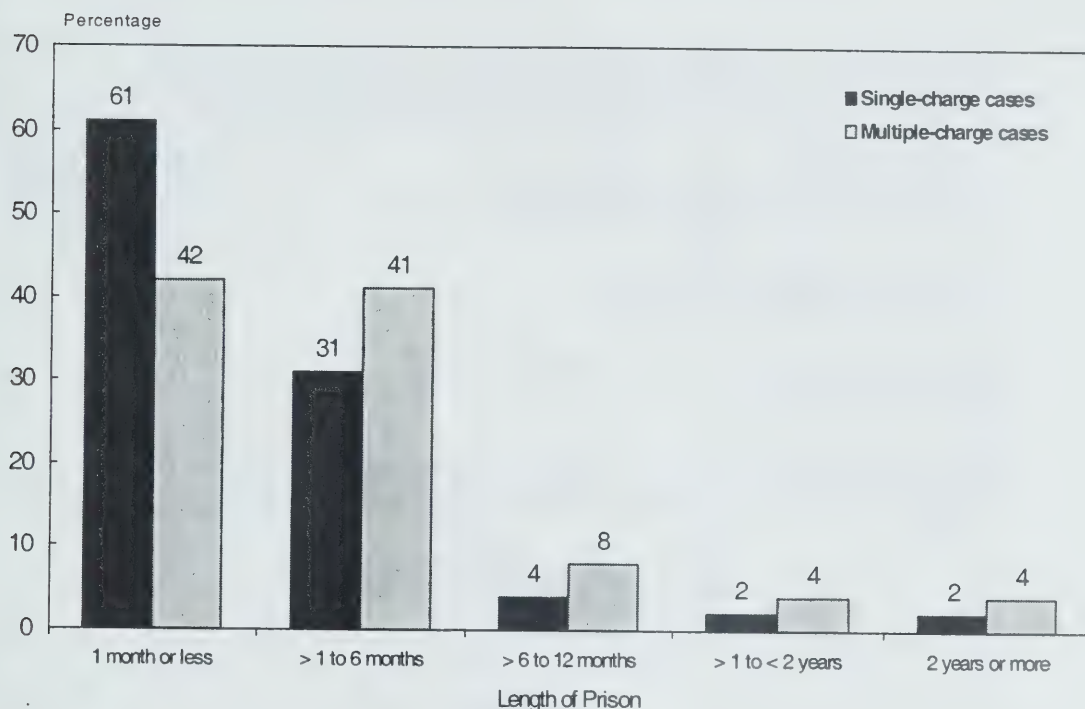
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- In cases with the same offence types, sentences in multiple-charge cases are more severe than those given in single-charge cases. The proportion of cases receiving a sentence of imprisonment increased as the number of charges in the case increased.
- A prison sentence was given in 28% of single-charge cases. In contrast, 38% of all multiple-charge cases received prison and 62% of cases with six or more charges received a prison sentence. In addition to prison sentences increasing with the number of charges, the proportion of fine sentences decreased, while the proportion of probation sentences remained fairly constant.



Figure 4.8

### Convicted Adult Criminal Court Cases by Length of Prison Sentence Ordered, 1997-98



Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

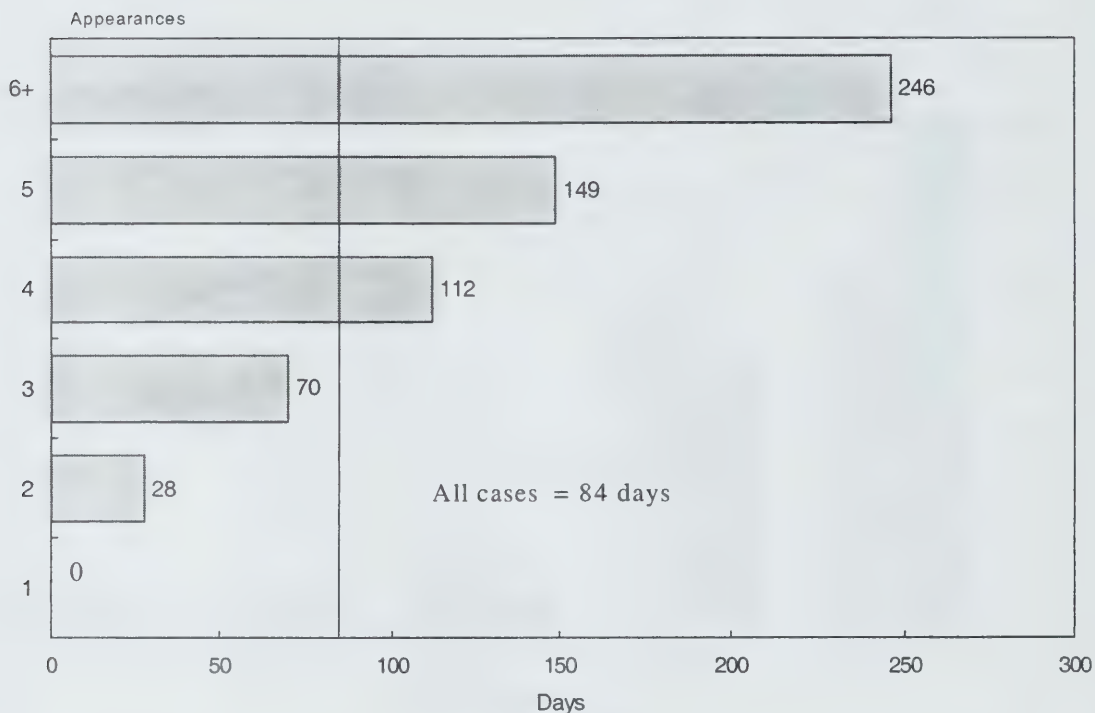
Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- The length of prison sentence also appears to be influenced by the number of charges in the case. Of the cases receiving prison, single-charge cases resulted in shorter prison terms than the most serious offence in multiple-charge cases. The sentence length given was less than one month for 61% of single-charge cases compared to 42% for the most serious offence in multiple-charge cases.
- Overall, the median prison sentence length for multiple-charge cases was twice the duration of prison sentences given in cases with only one charge (60 days versus 30 days). In cases involving more serious offences (Crimes Against the Person and Crimes Against Property), the median prison sentence length given to the most serious offence was 50% longer for cases with multiple charges (90 days versus 60 days).

Figure 4.9

## Median Elapsed Time by Number of Appearances in Adult Criminal Court Cases, 1997-98



Note: The following nine jurisdictions report to the Adult Criminal Court Survey: Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Yukon and the Northwest Territories.

Source: Adult Criminal Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 18 no. 14, "Adult Criminal Court Statistics, 1997-98".

- The more appearances a case has, the longer it will take. However, what is less clear, is how many days and months each additional appearance will add to the processing of a case. Examination of the elapsed time data revealed that each additional appearance added approximately one month to the median processing time of cases.
- An examination of processing times reveals that they have increased slightly between 1994-95 and 1997-98. During this period, the overall case elapsed time has increased from a median of 73 days to 84 days. The median processing time has increased for cases with multiple appearances; from 107 to 112 days for cases with four appearances, from 140 to 149 days for cases with five appearances, and from 212 to 246 days for cases with six or more appearances.

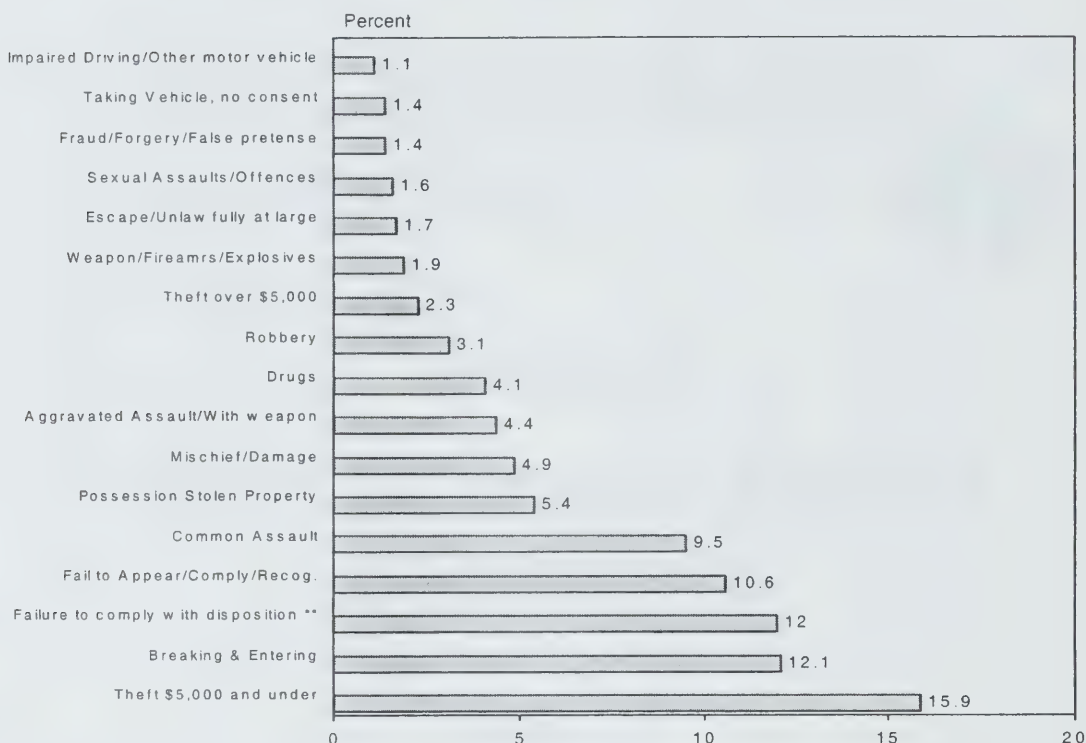


## **SECTION 5:**

# **YOUTH COURT ACTIVITY IN CANADA**

Figure 5.1

## Selected Cases Heard in Youth Court by Type of Offence\*, Canada, 1997-98



\* Type of offence refers to the principal (most serious) charge. The cases displayed represent 93% of all youth court cases.

\*\* Refers to the Young Offender Act offence of failure to comply with a disposition.

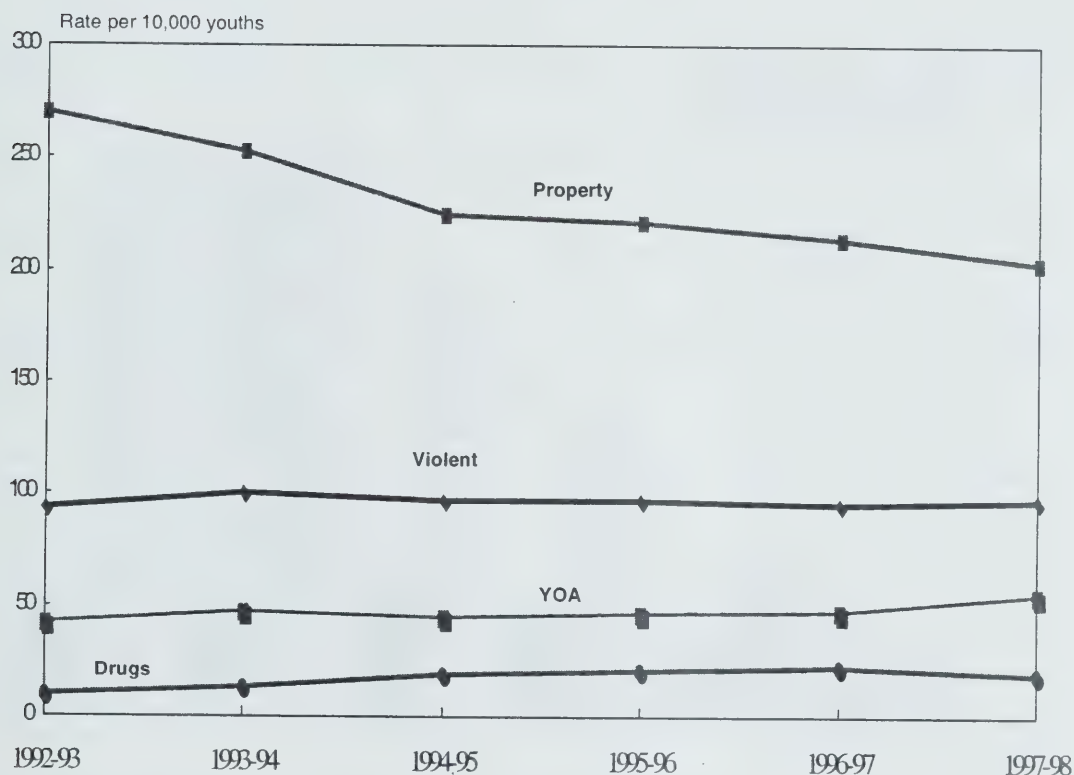
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.

For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- In 1997-98, youth courts heard 110,882 cases involving 211,649 federal charges. Cases related to property offences accounted for 45% of the caseload, while 21% involved violent offences (offences against the person).

Figure 5.2

# Youth Court Cases by Type of Offence, Canada, 1992-93 to 1997-98



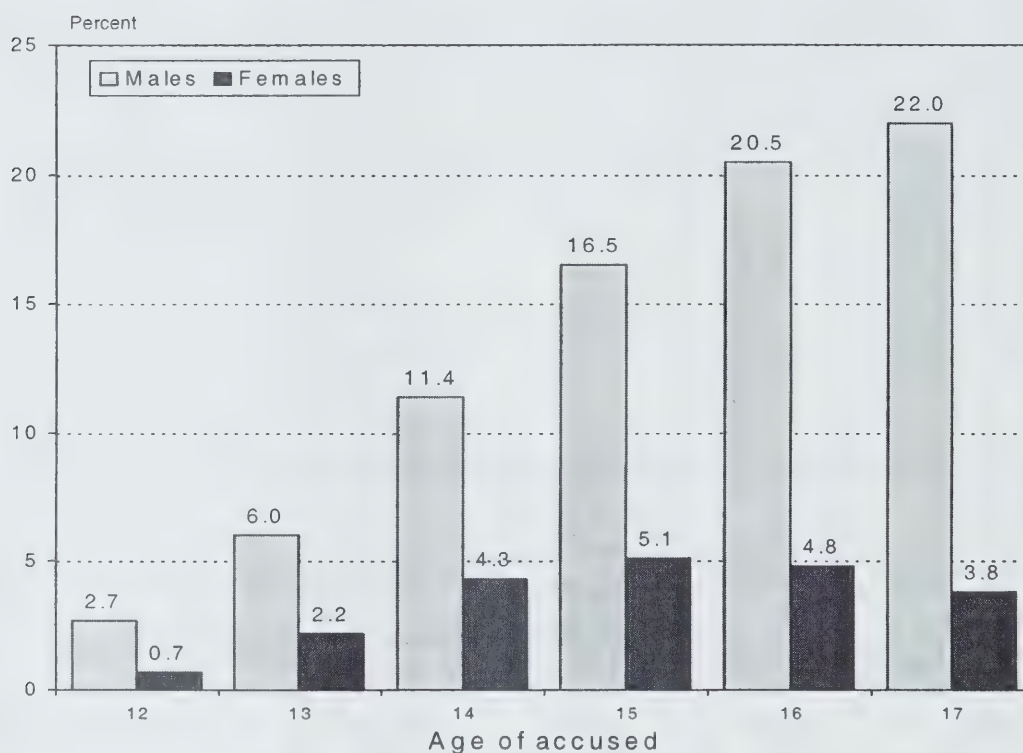
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.  
For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- Between 1992-93 and 1997-98, the rate of youth court cases declined by 9%, while several major categories of crime increased. The rate of violent crime cases increased by 4%, the rate of Young Offenders Act cases by 30%, and the rate of drug cases by 85%. In contrast, the rate of property crime cases decreased by 25%, while the rate of other Criminal Code cases increased marginally over 1992-93.



Figure 5.3

## Youth Court Cases\* by Age and Sex of Accused, Canada, 1997-98



\* Note : Excludes 2,413 cases (2.0%) in which the age of the youth was under 12 or over 17 or unknown.

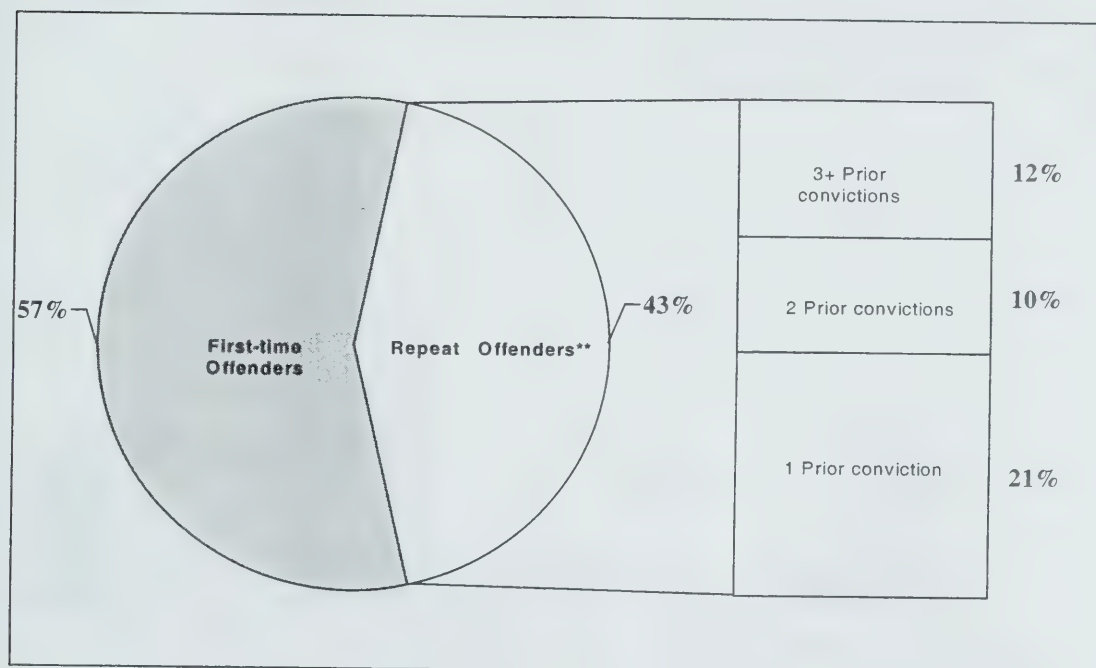
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.

For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- In 1997-98, approximately 80% of youth appearing in court were male.
- Male involvement in crime tended to increase with age while female involvement peaked at 15 years of age.
- About 51% of the court caseload involved youths aged 16 to 17 years; 37% involved 14 and 15 year olds; and 12% involved 12 and 13 year olds.

Figure 5.4

# Youth Court Convictions by Offender Type and Number of Prior Convictions, 1997-98\*



\* Data exclude Nova Scotia and post-disposition administration offences.

\*\* Repeat offenders were determined through counts of cases with guilty findings heard in 1997-98 involving young persons for whom one or more earlier charges resulted in a finding of guilt from a youth court in the same province or territory.

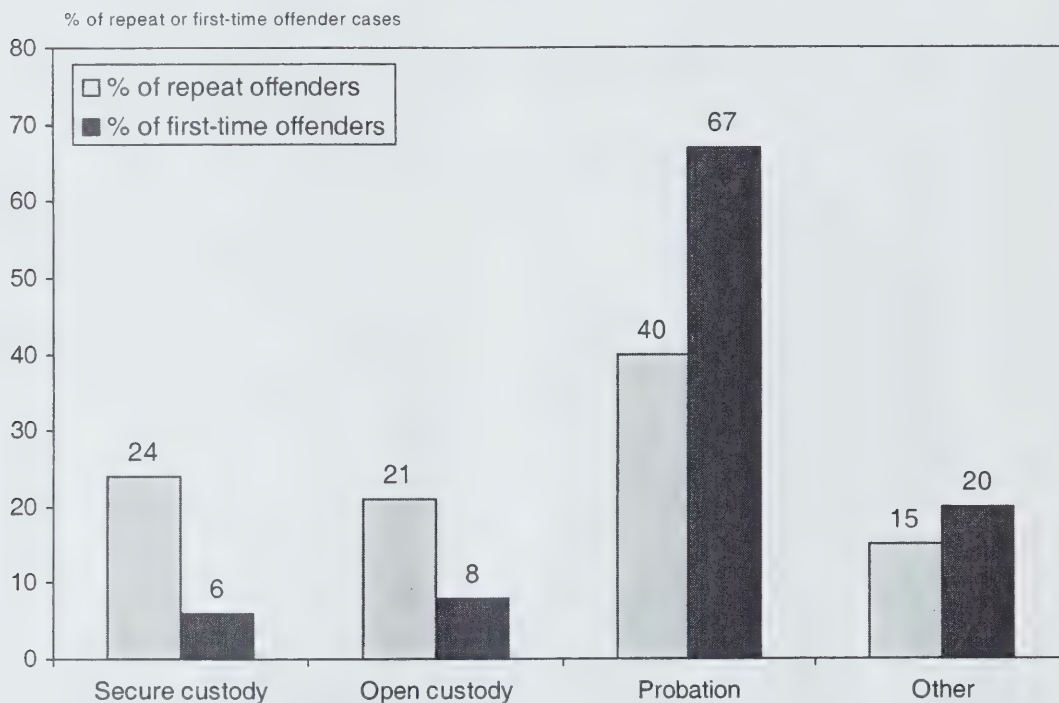
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.

For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- Cases involving males had a higher proportion of prior convictions: 45% compared to 33% of cases for females.
- Repeat offenders do not appear to be convicted for more serious offences than first-time offenders. For example, about 23% of the repeat offender cases received a conviction for a violent offence, as the most serious offence, compared to 30% of first-time offenders.
- Persistent offenders, defined here as offenders with at least three prior convictions, accounted for 12% of convictions.

Figure 5.5

## Dispositions for Repeat Offenders\*\* and First-time Offenders by Type of Disposition, Canada, 1997-98\*



\* Only the most serious disposition is shown. Data exclude Nova Scotia and post-disposition administration offences.  
 \*\* Repeat offenders were determined through counts of cases with guilty findings heard in 1997-98 involving young persons for whom one or more earlier charges resulted in a finding of guilt from a youth court in the same province or territory.

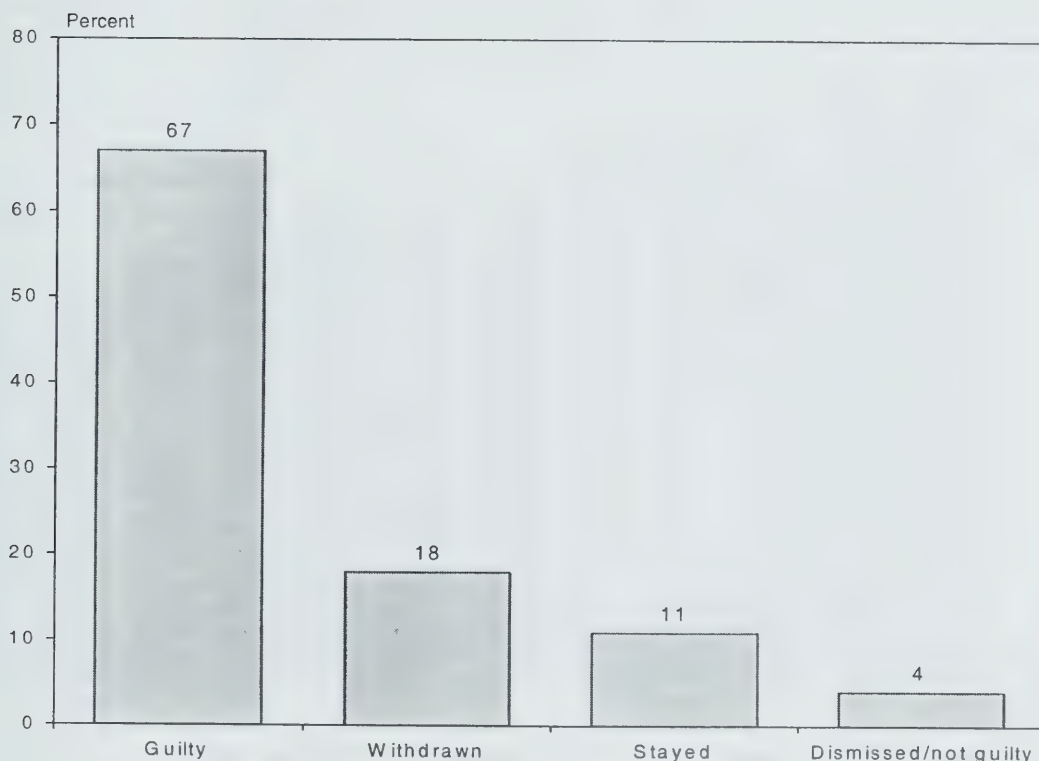
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.

For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- First-time offenders were most likely to be given a term of probation.
- Repeat offenders were about three times more likely to be ordered to serve a term of custody than first-time offenders.
- Repeat young offenders received increasingly harsher sentences from youth court as the number of prior convictions increased.

Figure 5.6

## Youth Court Cases by Most Serious Decision, Canada, 1997-98

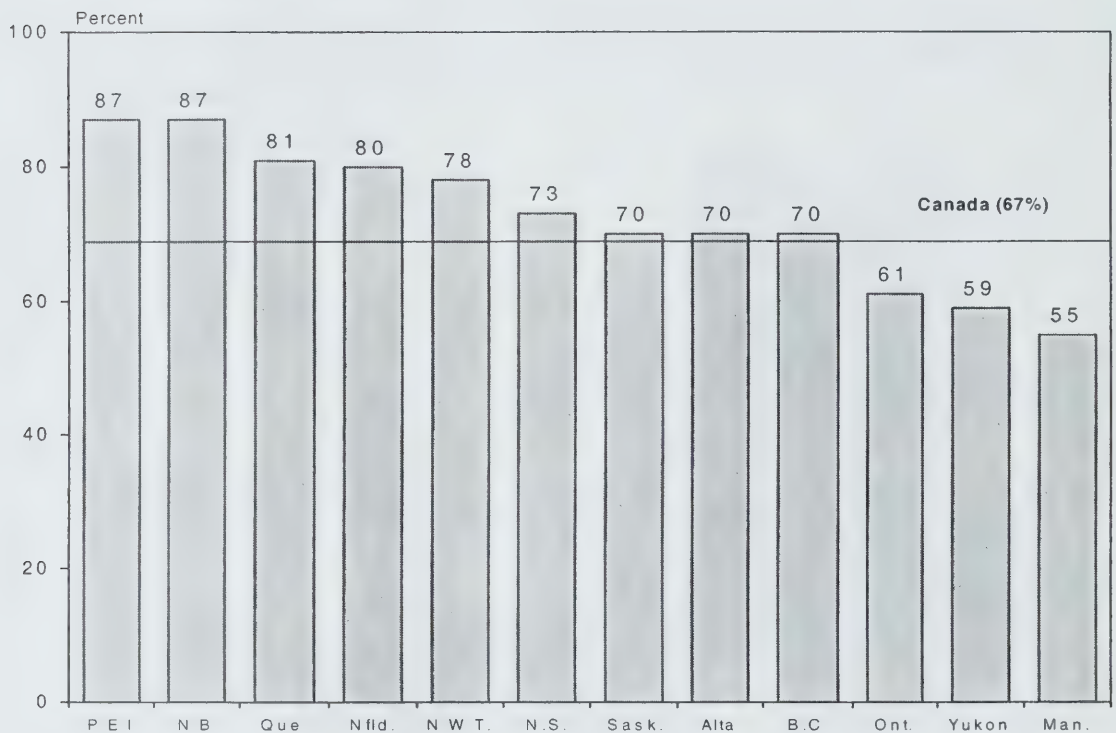


Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.  
For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- About two-thirds of cases heard in youth courts resulted in a finding of guilt for at least one charge.
- Cases related to the administration of justice, impaired driving/traffic crime, and breaking and entering resulted most often ended in a finding of guilt, (76%, 77% and 77% respectively). Cases less likely to result in a finding of guilt include theft (63%), aggravated/weapon assault (64%), robbery (65%) and sexual assault/sexual offences (54%).
- Less than one-tenth of one percent of all cases were transferred to adult court (79).
- Of all cases transferred to adult court, 52% involved violent offences, and 24% involved property offences. (There were 41 violent offence cases and 19 property offence cases).

Figure 5.7

## Youth Court Cases with Guilty Findings, Canada and the Provinces/Territories, 1997-98



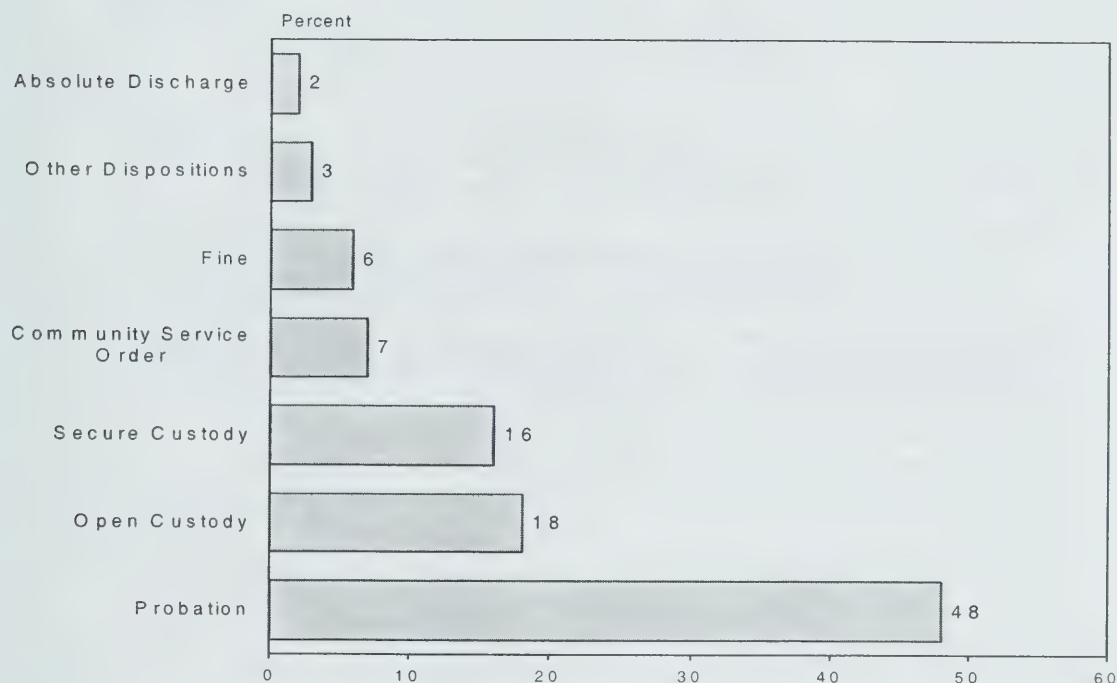
Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.  
For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- In 1997-98, the proportion of cases resulting in a guilty finding ranged from 87% in Prince Edward Island to 55% in Manitoba.
- One reason for this variation across jurisdictions is the proportion of cases that are stayed or withdrawn. For instance, Manitoba recorded the highest proportion of cases stayed (43%) and Ontario reported (28%) of cases withdrawn. The high proportions in these two provinces were partially due to charges being stayed or withdrawn pending the completion of alternative measures programs.



Figure 5.8

## Youth Court Cases Ending in a Finding of Guilt by Most Serious Disposition, Canada, 1997-98

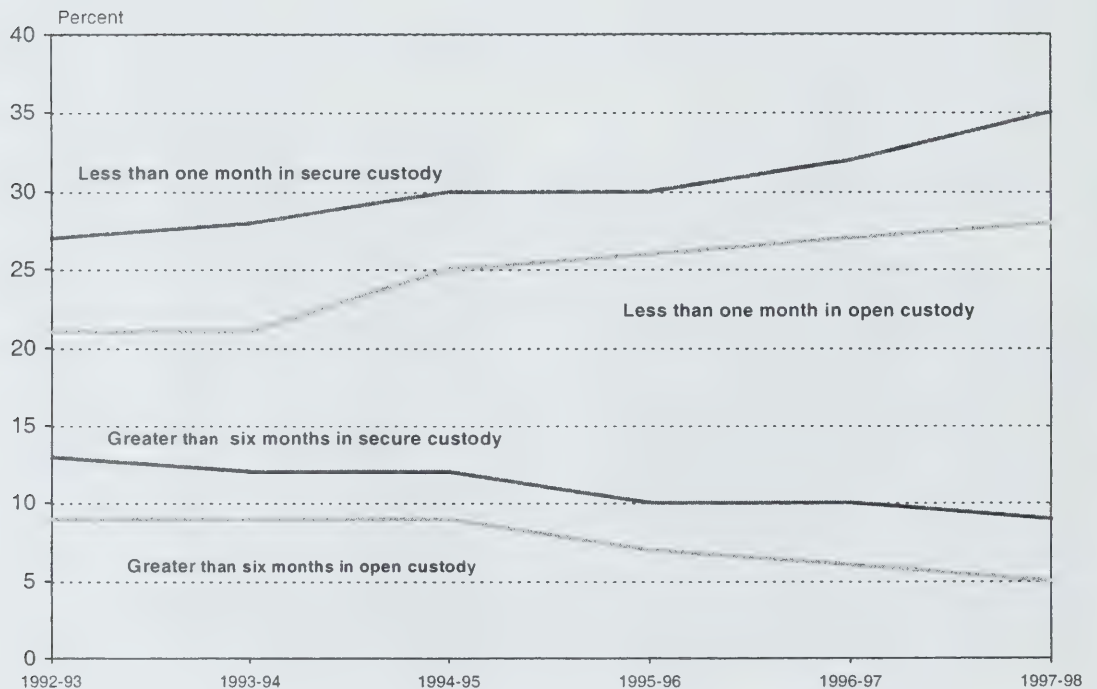


Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.  
For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- In 1997-98, probation was the most serious disposition in 48% of cases with a finding of guilt.
- Community Service Orders are often used in conjunction with other disposition: 30% of all cases resulting in a conviction included a Community Service Order.
- A case may result in more than one disposition. In 1997-98, 51% of all cases with a conviction involved only one disposition, 40% resulted in two dispositions, and 10% involved three or more dispositions.
- Custody as the most serious disposition was ordered in one-third (34%) of cases with convictions. Since 1992-93, the proportion of cases where custody was ordered increased by 8%, while the proportion of probation cases decreased by 3%.

Figure 5.9

## Youth Court Cases, Length of Custodial Dispositions\*, Canada, 1992-93 to 1997-98



\* Custodial dispositions refer to secure and open custody.

Source: Youth Court Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada, 1997-98.

For more information, see Juristat Youth Court Statistics 1997-98 Highlights (catalogue 85-002-XPE Vol.19 no. 2).

- The proportion of cases with shorter custodial sentences has increased since 1992-93.
- Of cases ending in open custody in 1992-93, 21% were for terms of less than one month, compared to 28% in 1997-98.
- For secure custody cases, the proportion with orders of less than one month increased from 27% in 1992-93 to 35% in 1997-98.

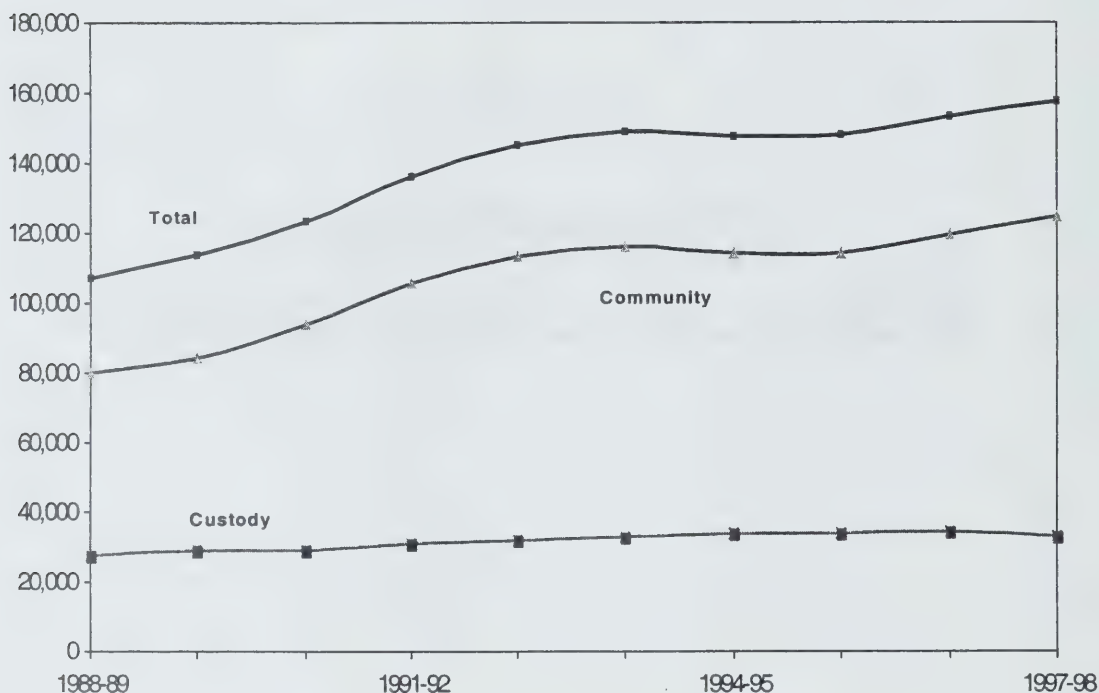


## **SECTION 6:**

# **CORRECTIONAL POPULATION IN CANADA**

Figure 6.1

## Average Daily Adult Provincial/Territorial and Federal Offenders in Custody or Under Supervision in the Community, 1988-89 to 1997-98\*



\* Provincial/territorial conditional sentences for 1996-97 and 1997-98 are included in the community and total counts.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

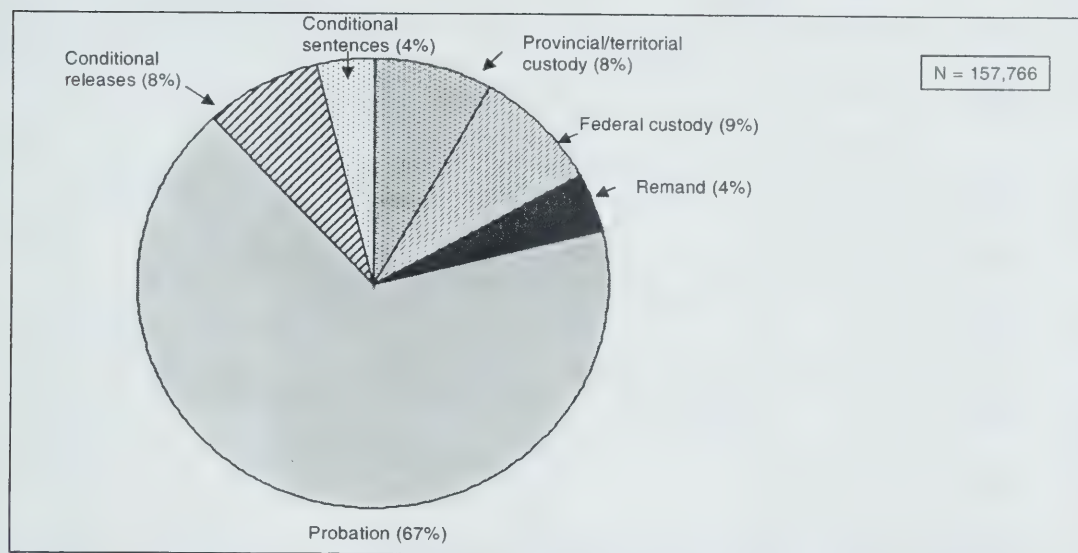
- On any given day during 1997-98, an average of 157,766 adults were under the supervision of correctional agencies in Canada, an increase of 3% from the previous year. However, since 1988-89, the average daily number of adults under correctional supervision has increased by 47%.
- Some 32,970 offenders were housed in custodial facilities, representing a decrease of 3% from the previous year.
- The remaining 124,796 offenders were under community supervision, an increase of 5% over 1996-97.

Note: Commencing September 6, 1996, judges, after imposing a term of imprisonment of less than two years, may order the offender to serve the prison sentence in the community (known as a conditional sentence), subject to compliance with conditions imposed in the conditional sentence order. The offender may be incarcerated for the remainder of the sentence should the conditions of the order be breached.

The goal of the conditional sentence was to create another alternative to conventional imprisonment. Conditional sentence data have been included since the introduction of the disposition.

Figure 6.2

## Average Daily Adult (Supervised) Correctional Populations in Canada,\* 1997-98



\* "Other Custody" (247) not included.

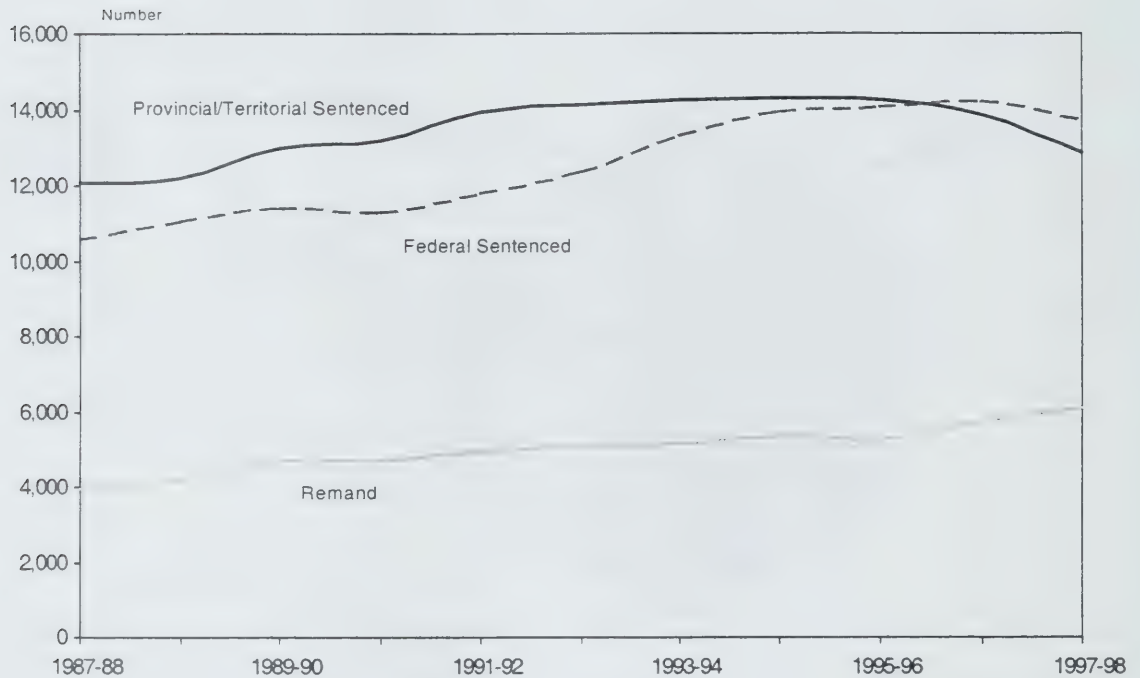
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98, the majority of the 157,766 supervised offenders (67%) were on probation.
- On average, in 1997-98, 17% of adults under the supervision of correctional agencies were housed in provincial/territorial (8%) and federal (9%) custodial facilities. Accused persons detained on remand accounted for an additional 4% of adult offenders under the care of correctional authorities.
- Over three-quarters (79%) of offenders under correctional supervision were under some form of community supervision (including probation). Adult offenders granted conditional release (such as parole or statutory release) accounted for 8% of the supervised adult population, and the remainder (4%) were on conditional sentences.



Figure 6.3

## Average Daily Adult Custodial Counts by Type, 1987-88 to 1997-98

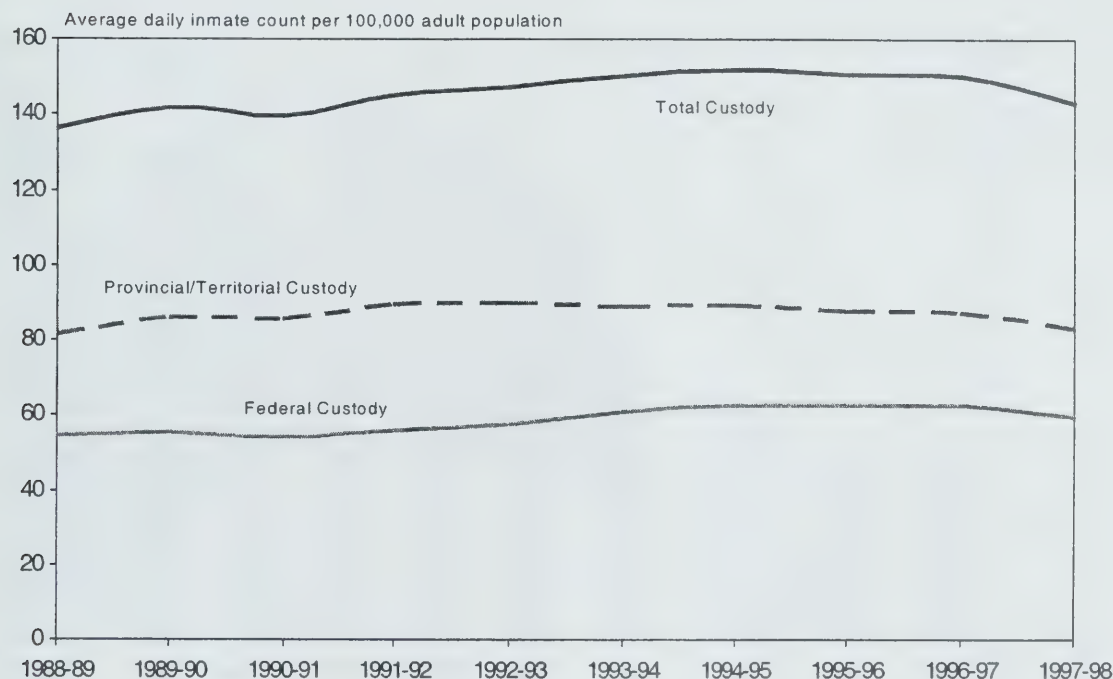


Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- From 1987-88 to 1994-95, the average daily count of provincial/territorial sentenced offenders increased steadily, peaking to a high of 14,316 offenders. Since 1995-96 this count has been declining.
- In 1997-98, there was an average of 12,889 sentenced offenders in provincial/territorial custody, a 7% decrease from the previous year, and a 10% decrease since the peak in 1994-95.
- Average federal offender counts increased steadily until 1996-97 (with the exception of 1990-91 when a slight decrease was experienced), reaching a high of 14,228. The average count dropped 4% in 1997-98, to 13,726 federal offenders.
- Average remand counts reached 6,109 in 1997-98, an increase of 7% from the previous fiscal year, continuing the gradual, upward incline.

Figure 6.4

## Average Incarceration Rate\* for Provincial/Territorial and Federal Adult Offenders, 1988-89 to 1997-98



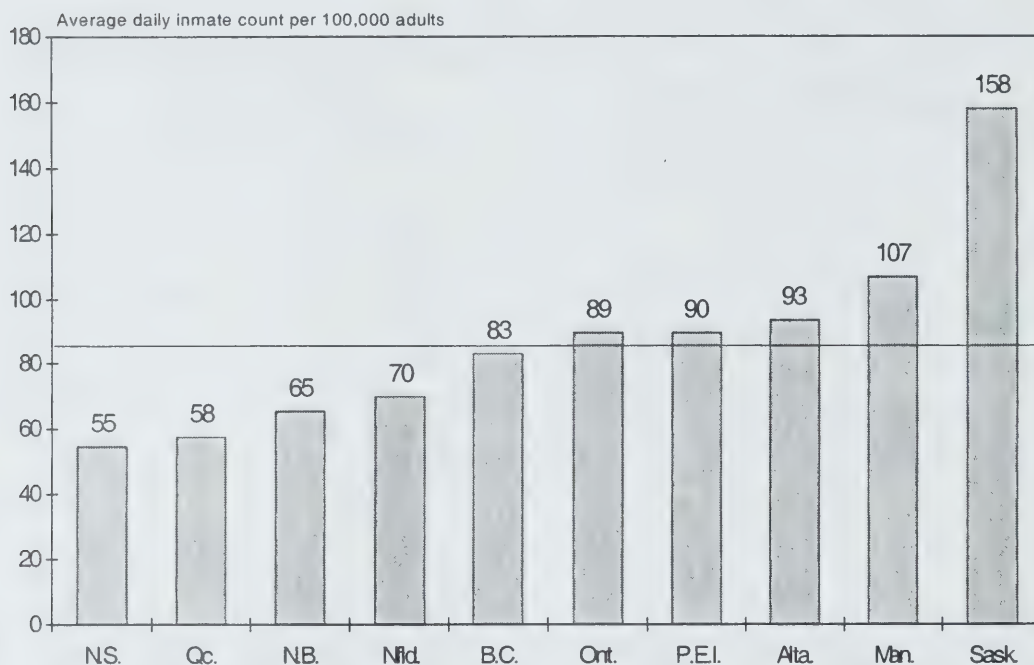
\* Rates are calculated using the average daily (actual-in) inmate counts, divided by the adult population, then multiplied by 100,000.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- The total adult incarceration rate increased steadily between 1988-89 and 1994-95 (with the exception of 1990-91 when a slight decrease was experienced), peaking at 152 adult inmates per 100,000 adult population. Since then, incarceration rates have been gradually declining. On average, in 1997-98, there were 143 adult inmates per 100,000 adult population, the lowest rate since 1990-91.
- Though provincial/territorial incarceration rates fluctuated between 1988-89 and 1994-95, they have been continually declining since 1995-96. The 1997-98 incarceration rate for provincial/territorial facilities of 84 inmates per 100,000 adults nears the 1988-89 rate of 82 inmates per 100,000 adult population.
- Incarceration rates for federal inmates gradually increased between 1991-92 and 1995-96, peaking at 63 inmates per 100,000 adults, a 15% increase over the 1988-89 rate. Federal incarceration rates saw slight declines in 1996-97 and 1997-98, with the latest year averaging 60 inmates per 100,000 adult population, still 9% above the 10-year low in 1988-89.

Figure 6.5

## Incarceration Rate (Provincial)\* per 100,000 Adult Population by Province/Territory, 1997-98



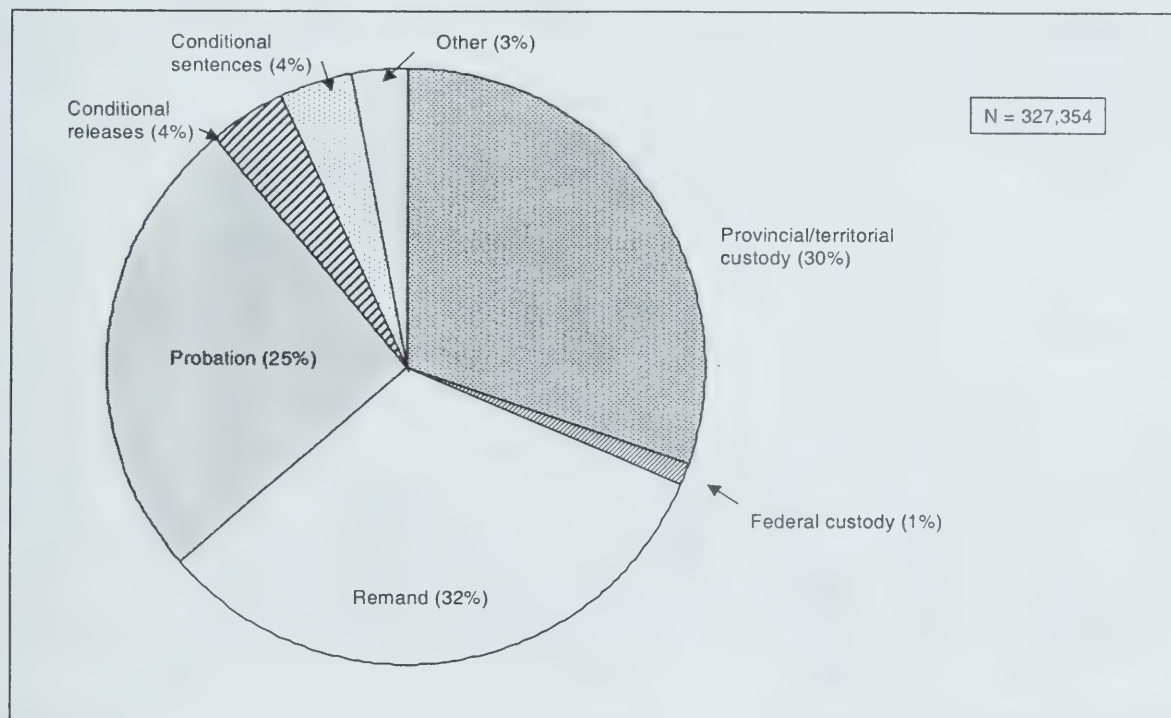
\* Rates are calculated using the average daily (actual-in) inmate counts, divided by the adult population, then multiplied by 100,000.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- On average in 1997-98, there were 19,245 adult offenders in provincial/territorial custody, or 84 adult inmates per 100,000 adult population.
- The highest rates in 1997-98 were found in the Northwest Territories (351 inmates per 100,000 adult population) and Yukon (342 adult inmates per 100,000 adult population), both not shown due to their extreme values.
- Among the provinces, Nova Scotia showed the lowest incarceration rate (55 inmates per 100,000 adults), followed closely by Quebec (58 inmates per 100,000 adult population). Saskatchewan showed the third highest incarceration rate (158 inmates per 100,000 adult population), almost three times that of Nova Scotia.

Figure 6.6

## Admissions to Provincial/Territorial and Federal Corrections, 1997-98



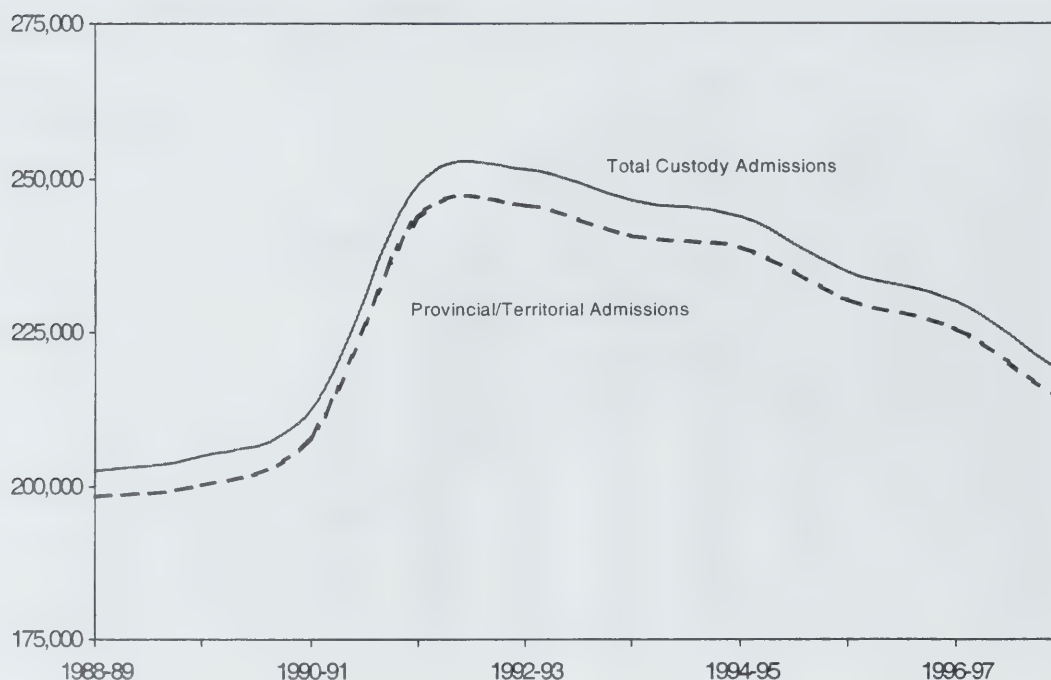
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98, sentenced prisoners admitted to a period of custody (provincial/territorial or federal) accounted for less than one-third (31%) of total admissions.
- Accused persons detained on remand accounted for almost one-third (32%) of all admissions.
- One-quarter (25%) of admissions to the correctional population were individuals on probation, while some (4%) are under conditional release in the community.
- The remainder of admissions were those serving a conditional sentence (4%) and other types of admissions (e.g., immigration and other temporary holds).



Figure 6.7

## Total Number of Admissions to Provincial/Territorial and Federal Custody\*, 1988-89 to 1997-98



\* Federal Custody Admissions are represented as the area between Total Custody Admissions and Provincial/Territorial Admissions.

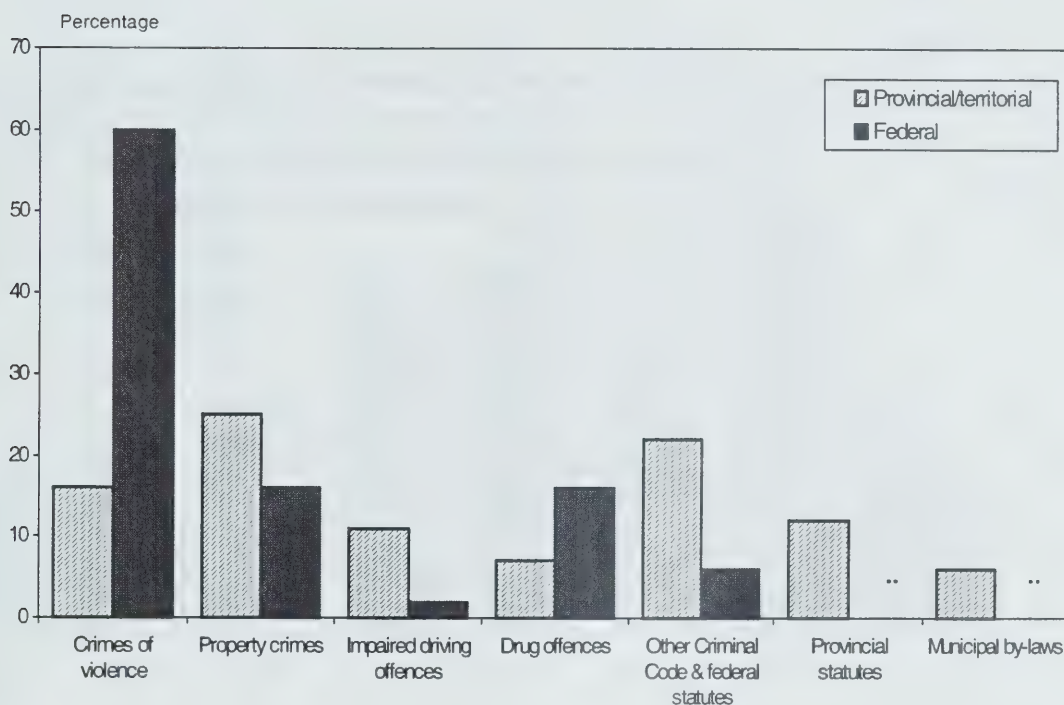
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98, 218,526 adult offenders were admitted to custody. For the fifth consecutive year, the total number of admissions to custody across Canada declined.
- On average, admissions to provincial/territorial institutions represent 98% of total custody admissions; hence the total custody admissions trend is predominantly affected by that of provincial/territorial custody admissions.
- Admissions to provincial/territorial custody continually increased until the peak of 245,746 admissions in 1992-93, a 24% increase from 1988-89. Since 1993-94, provincial/territorial admissions have continually declined, with 1997-98 admissions (214,114) representing a 13% decrease over 1992-93 levels.
- Admissions to federal facilities peaked at 5,642 in 1993-94, a 31% increase over the 4,319 federal admissions in 1988-89. Since 1994-95, the average number of admissions to federal institutions has declined, dropping to 4,412 in 1997-98, a near return to the lower federal admissions of late 1988-89.



Figure 6.8

## Most Serious Offence Committed on Admission to Custody, 1997-98



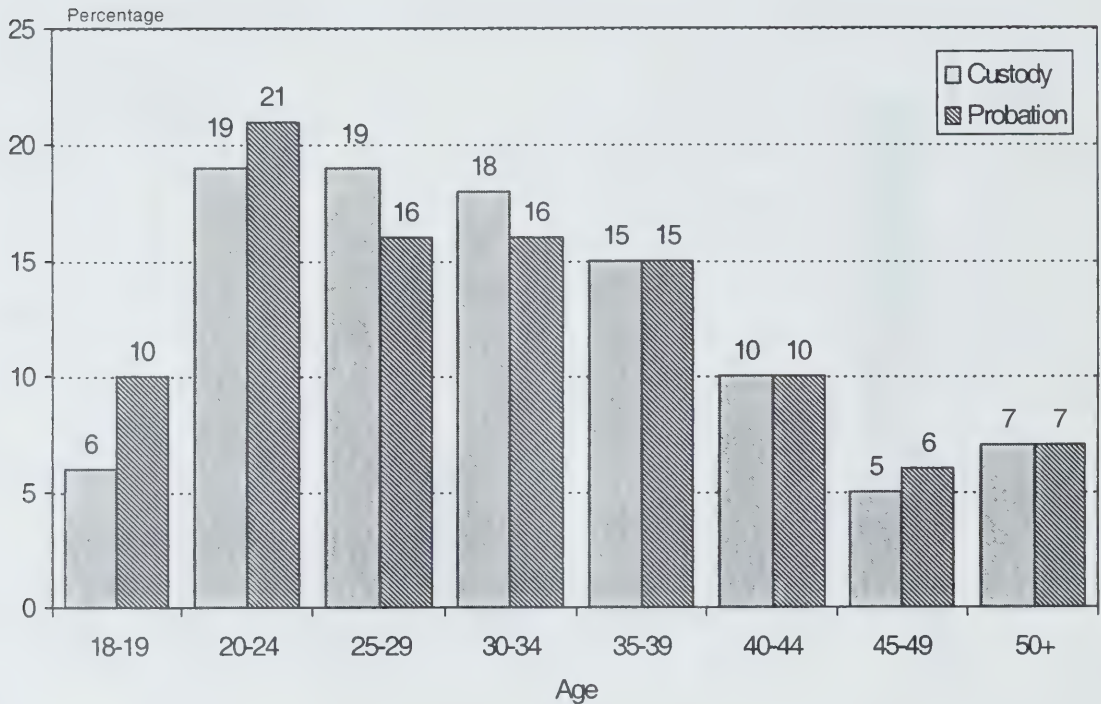
.. Figures not available.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- A clear distinction emerges between the provincial/territorial and federal prison populations in terms of the crime for which the offender is admitted to prison.
- Property crimes account for the highest percentage (25%) of admissions at the provincial/territorial level, while crimes of violence account for the highest percentage of admissions to custody at the federal level (60%).
- Although the highest percentage of admissions to provincial/territorial custody is accounted for by property offences, almost as many offenders were admitted for "other Criminal Code offences and related federal statutes" (22%).

Figure 6.9

## Age of Offenders Admitted to Provincial/Territorial Custody and Probation, 1997-98\*



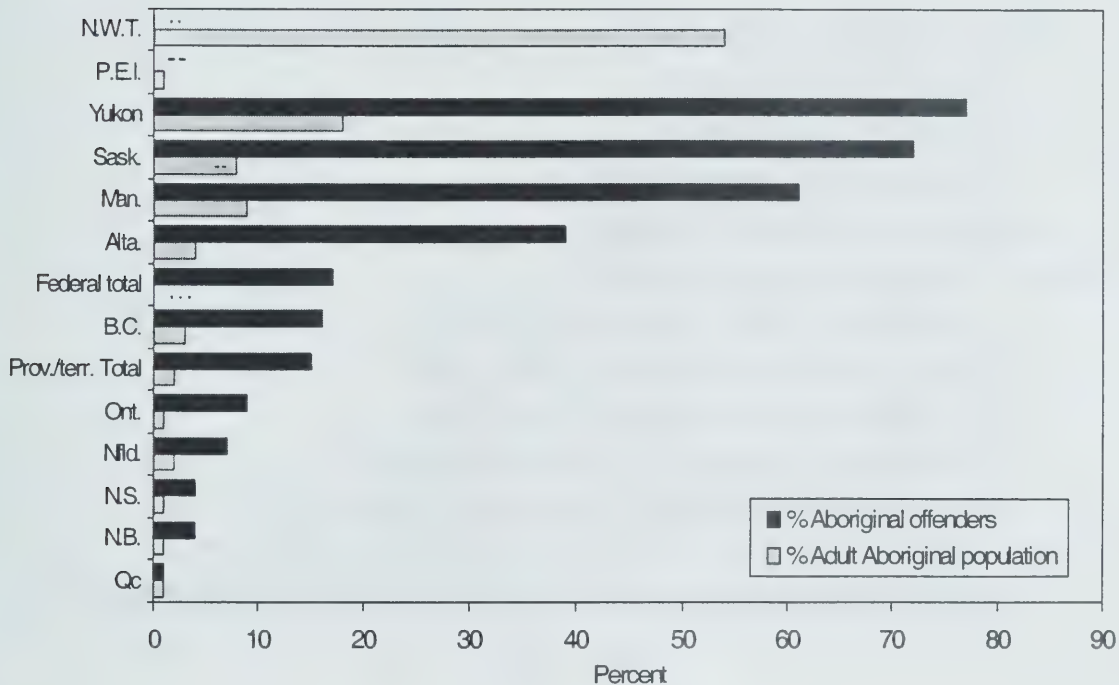
\* Percentages may not add to 100% because of number rounding.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98, persons in their twenties made up the largest proportion of those admitted to provincial/territorial custody (38%) and probation (37%).
- In 1997-98, the median age for a provincial/territorial inmate upon admission was 32 years, up from 31 in 1996-97. For admissions to probation the median age did not change from 1996-97, at 31 years.

Figure 6.10

## Aboriginal Persons, Proportion of Admissions and Adult Population, 1997-98



.. Figures not available.

... Figures not appropriate or applicable.

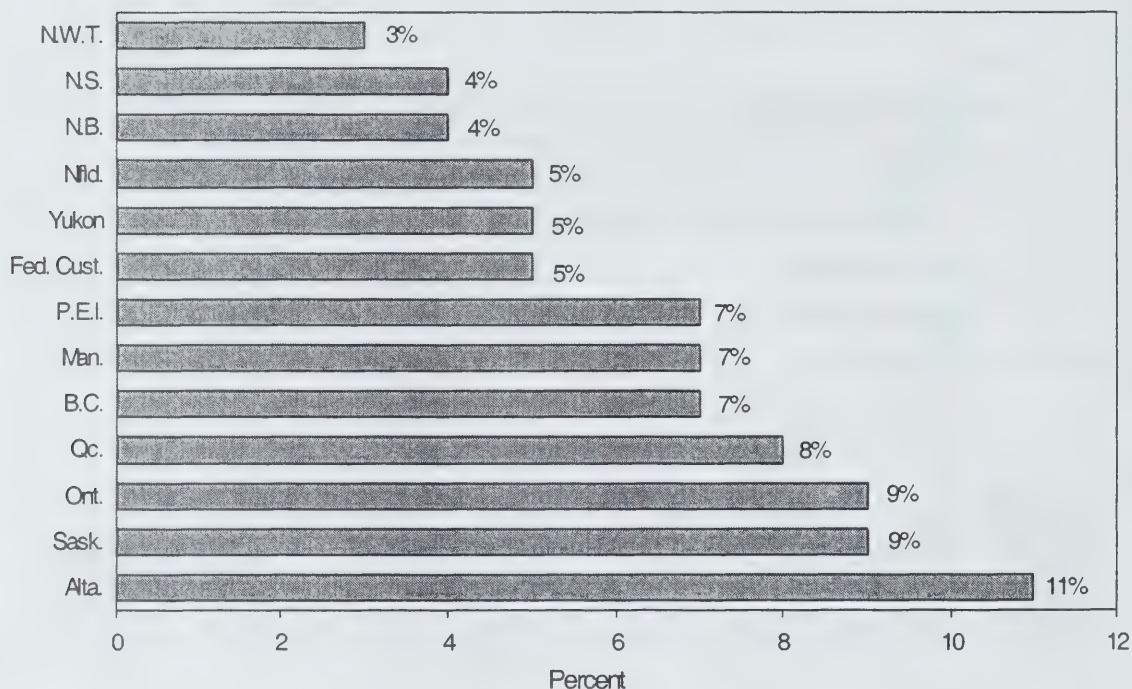
-- Amount too small to be expressed.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada

- Although Aboriginal peoples represent 2% of the adult population, they have long been over-represented in the corrections population. In 1997-98, 15% of admissions to custody at the provincial/territorial level were Aboriginal persons, and 17% at the federal level.
- As in previous years, there is considerable variation across the country. The percentage of Aboriginal admissions to provincial/territorial custody ranged from a low of about 1% in Quebec to a high of 77% in Yukon. Saskatchewan and Manitoba also had significant percentages of Aboriginal admissions (72% and 61% respectively).

Figure 6.11

## Females Admitted to Provincial/Territorial and Federal Facilities, 1997-98



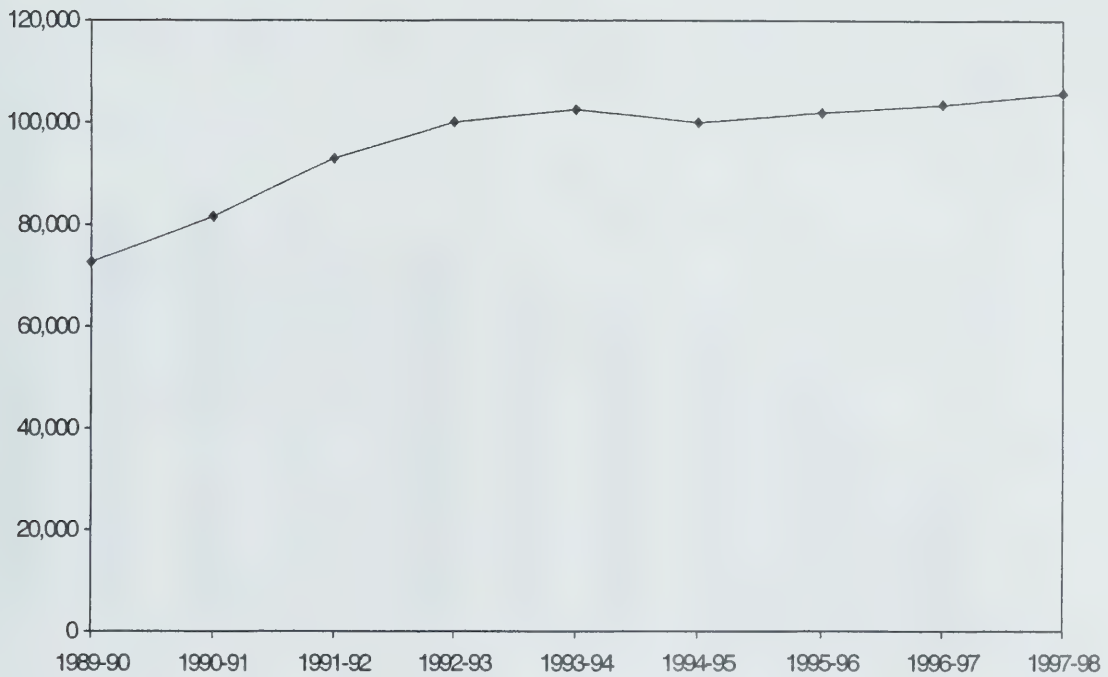
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98, females accounted for 9% of all sentenced admissions to provincial/territorial prisons. Only Alberta reported admissions of females above the provincial/territorial average (11%).
- The gender ratio has not changed in recent years: women accounted for the same percentage of admissions in 1992-93.
- Female offenders represent an even smaller percentage (5%) of admissions to federal penitentiaries.



Figure 6.12

## Average Probation Counts\*, 1989-90 to 1997-98



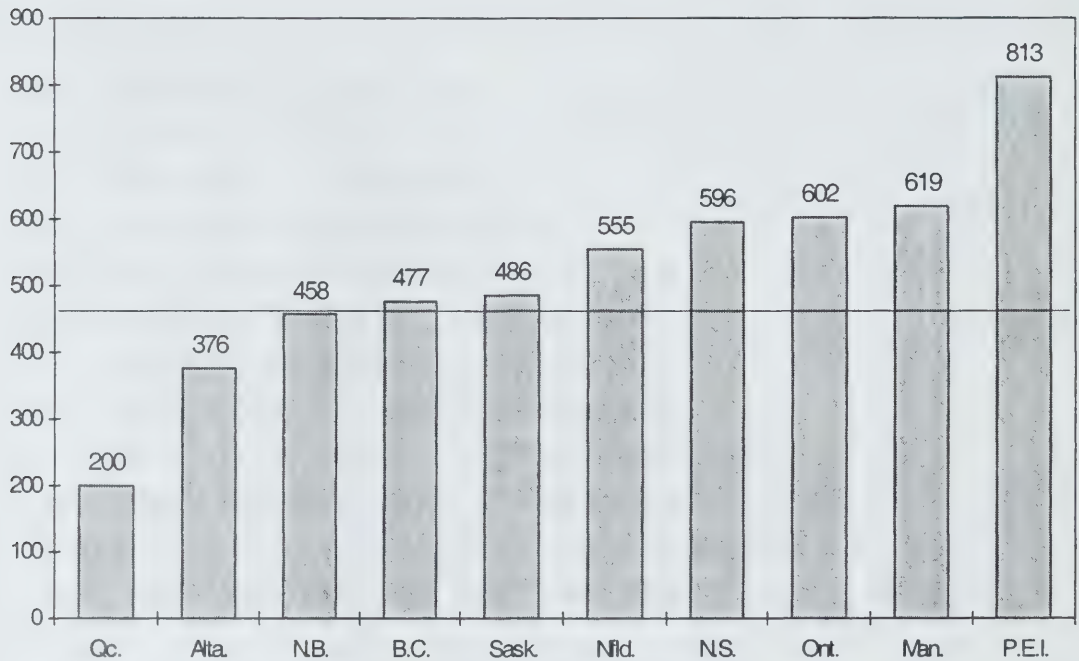
\* Data from the Northwest Territories have been excluded from all years, due to unavailability in some years.  
Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- In 1997-98 the average probation count increased by 2% from 1996-97. Average probation counts represent the monthly average number of offenders being supervised on probation in the community.
- Since 1989-90, probation counts have increased by 46%. Between 1989-90 and 1992-93, probation counts increased steadily, averaging 11% per year. However, since 1993-94, the average probation count has been fairly stable, with an average annual fluctuation of about 1%.



Figure 6.13

## Average Probation Count\* per 100,000 Adult Population, Provinces/Territories, 1997-98



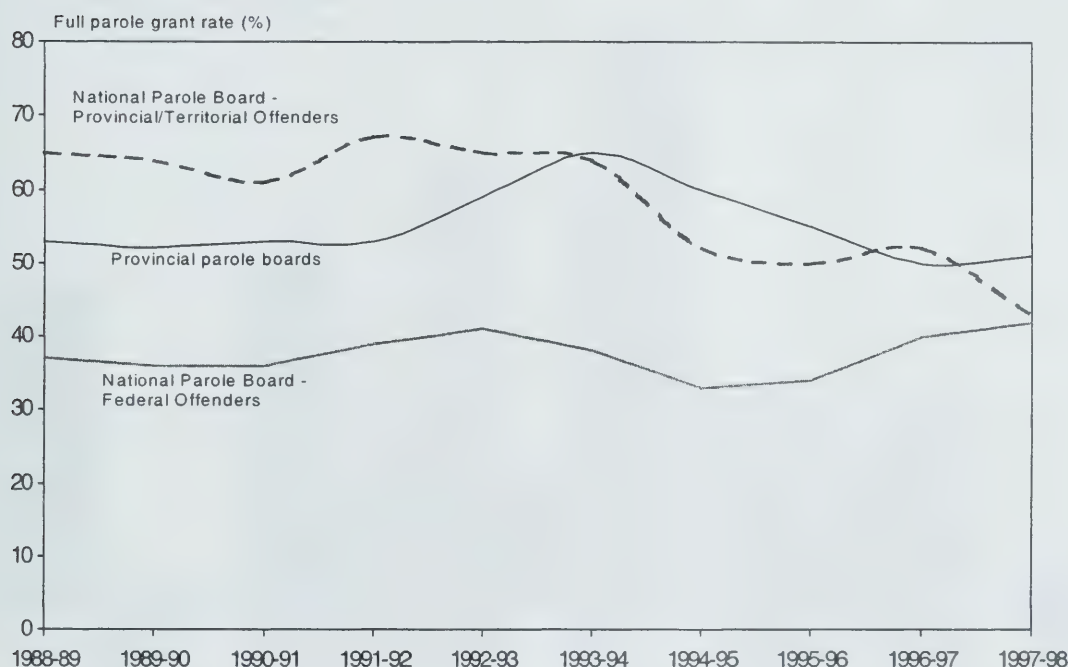
\* Rates are calculated using the average monthly probation counts, divided by the adult population, then multiplied by 100,000.

Source: Adult Correctional Services Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

- On average in 1997-98, there were 105,861 adults on probation, or 460 probationers per 100,000 adults (excluding Northwest Territories, where data on probation are not available).
- Yukon showed the greatest probation rate (not shown due to its extreme value), averaging 2,368 probationers per 100,000 adults.
- Among the provinces, Prince Edward Island averaged the largest number of probationers (813) per 100,000 adults. This was followed by Manitoba where the rate was 619 probationers per 100,000 adult population.
- Quebec showed the lowest probation rate (200 probationers per 100,000 adults), almost half that of the Alberta, the next lowest (376 per 100,000 adults).

Figure 6.14

## Federal and Provincial\* Full Parole\*\* Grant Rate, 1988-89 to 1997-98



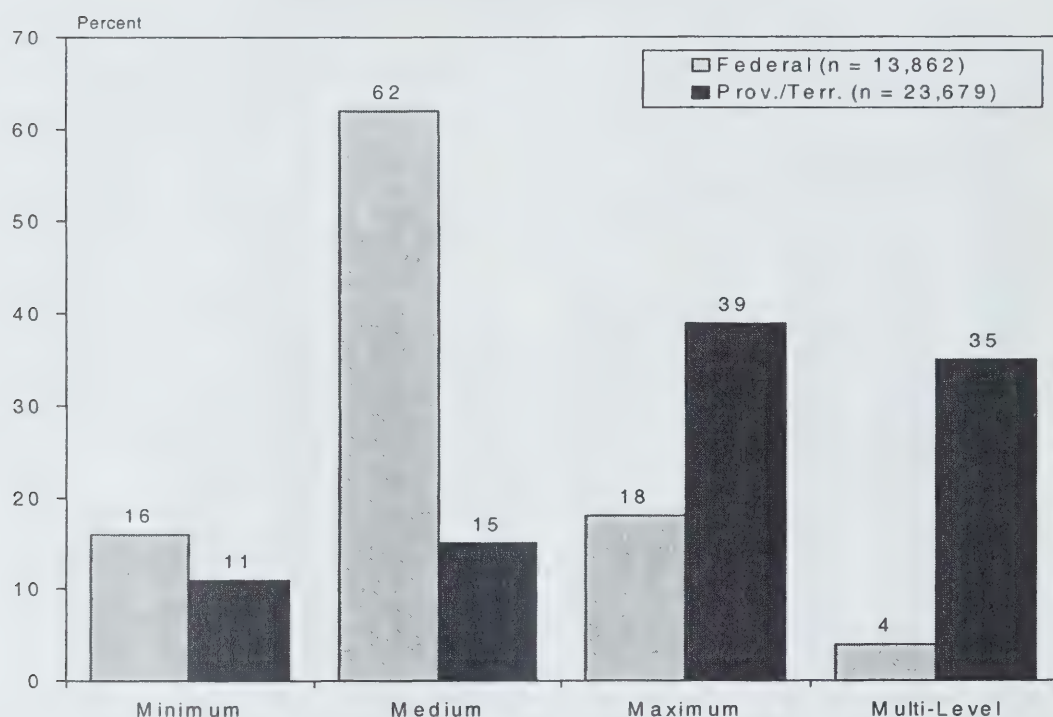
\* Parole Boards – Three provinces have full-functioning parole boards: Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia operate boards that have jurisdiction for all offenders in their provincial jurisdictions. The National Parole Board has jurisdiction over all offenders sentenced to a penitentiary (a sentence of two years or more) and offenders held in provincial and territorial correctional institutions where there are no provincial parole boards.

\*\* Full parole is a form of conditional release, granted at the discretion of paroling authorities-allowing offenders to serve part of their prison sentence in the community.

- In 1997-98, the full parole grant rate for provincial/territorial applicants (provincial parole boards and National Parole Board, provincial/territorial offenders ) was 50%, down from 53% in 1996-97.
- After three years of declining rates, provincial parole board grant rates increased slightly. In 1997-98, the provincial parole rate was 51%, up from 50% in 1996-97, but still down from a high of 65% in 1993-94.
- The parole grant rate for provincial/territorial offenders by the National Parole Board (NPB) has decreased since 1993-94, with the exception of 1996-97 when a slight increase was experienced. In 1997-98, the NPB granted full parole to 43% of provincial/territorial applications, again down from the high in 1993-94 (64%).
- In contrast, the parole grant rate for federal offenders has increased over the past three years. In 1997-98, 42% of federal full parole applications to the NPB were granted. This is up from 40% in 1996-97 and from 34% in 1995-96.

Figure 6.15

# Distribution of Beds by Security Level of Facility

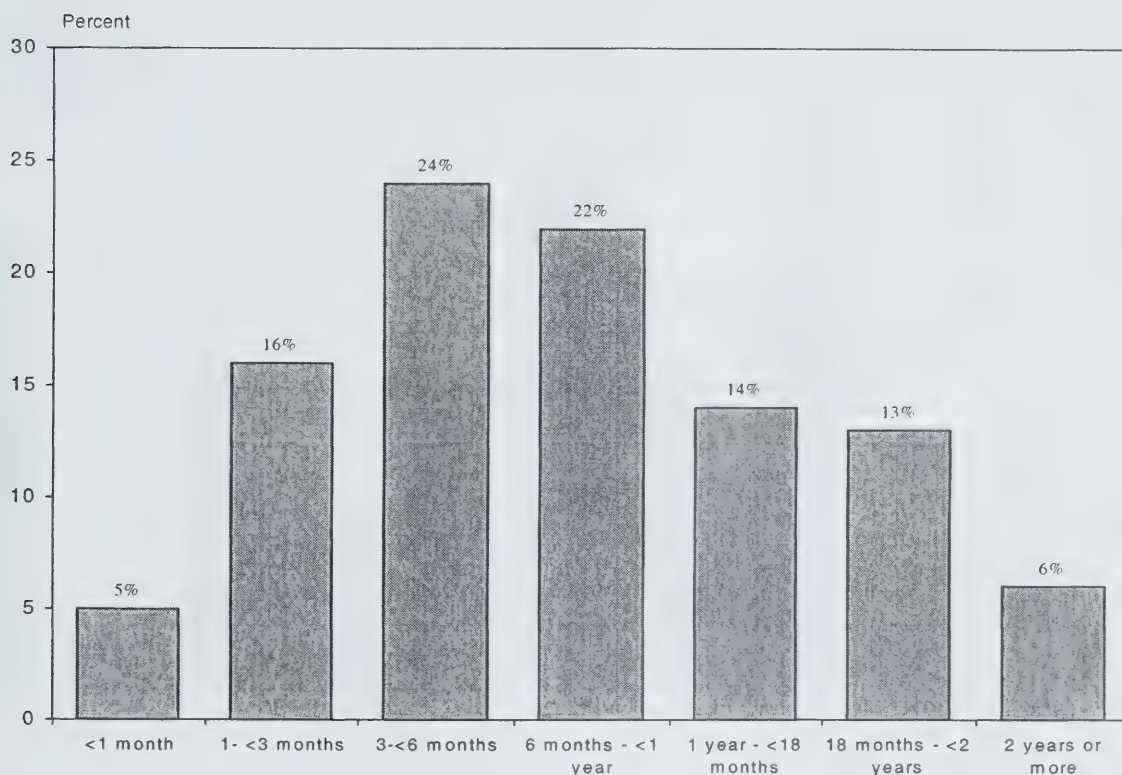


Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- On Snapshot Day, the majority of federal inmates (62%) were held in medium security facilities, while provincial/territorial inmates tended to be held in either multi-level (35%) or maximum security (39%) facilities.
- Only 15% of provincial/territorial inmates were housed in medium security, and 11% in minimum security facilities.

Figure 6.16

## Aggregate Sentence Length Distribution for Inmates in Provincial/Territorial Adult Correctional Facilities



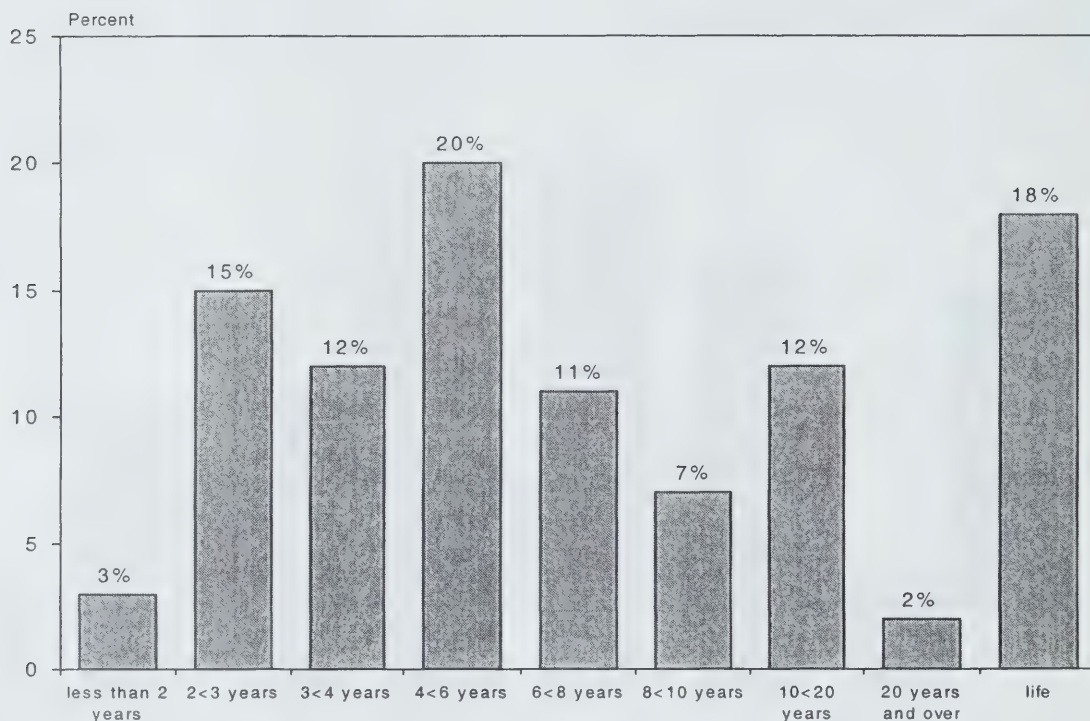
Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- An offender can be convicted of multiple charges in a single court disposition or in several court dispositions. In such cases, the judge may order that the various prison sentences be served either consecutively to (following), or concurrently with (at the same time as) one another. The "aggregate sentence" is the sum of all sentences that the offender must serve.
- On Snapshot Day, 45% of sentenced provincial/territorial inmates were serving prison terms of less than six months. A further 22% were serving terms of between 6 months and less than 1 year.
- The median sentence length was 184 days (approximately 6 months).



Figure 6.17

## Aggregate Sentence Length Distribution for Inmates in Federal Correctional Facilities



Source: A One-Day Snapshot of Inmates in Canada's Adult Correctional Facilities. Based on inmates on-register on October 5<sup>th</sup> 1996. Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada (catalogue no. 85-601-XPE).

- One-half of all federal inmates on-register on Snapshot Day were serving sentences of less than six years.
- Almost one-third (30%) of the inmates in federal facilities were serving prison terms of between six and 20 years.
- Of all the inmates in Canada's federal facilities on Snapshot Day, 18% were serving life imprisonment terms.
- Excluding those serving life sentences, the median sentence length was 1,787 days (approximately 5 years).



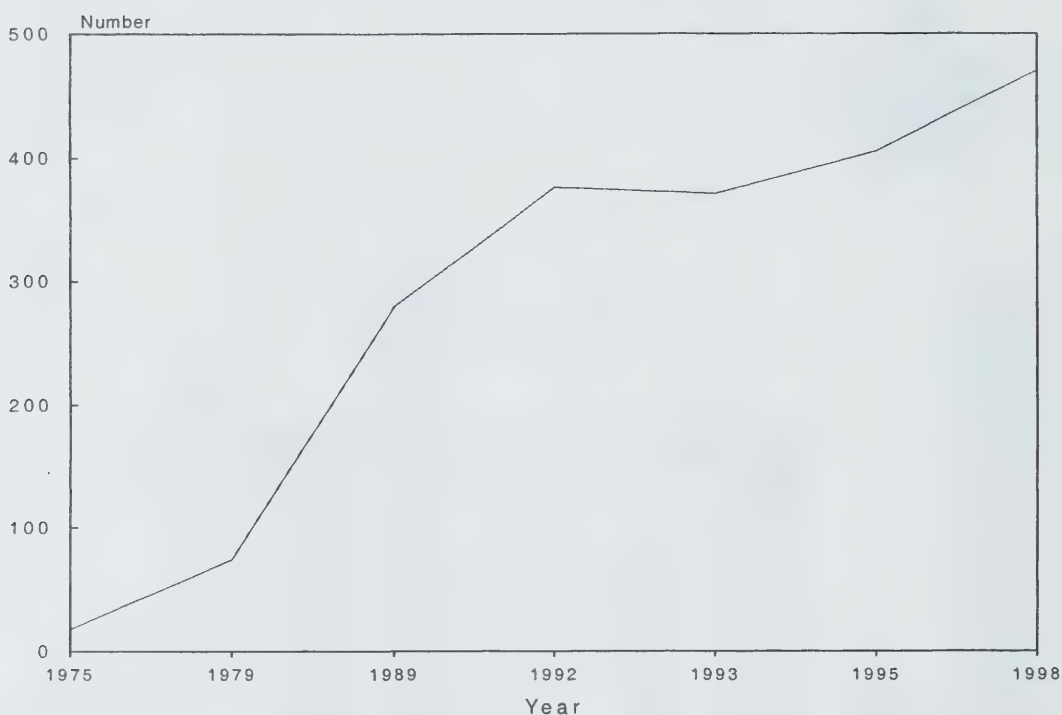


## **SECTION 7:**

# **TRANSITION HOME**

Figure 7.1

## Growth in Canadian Shelters for Abused women

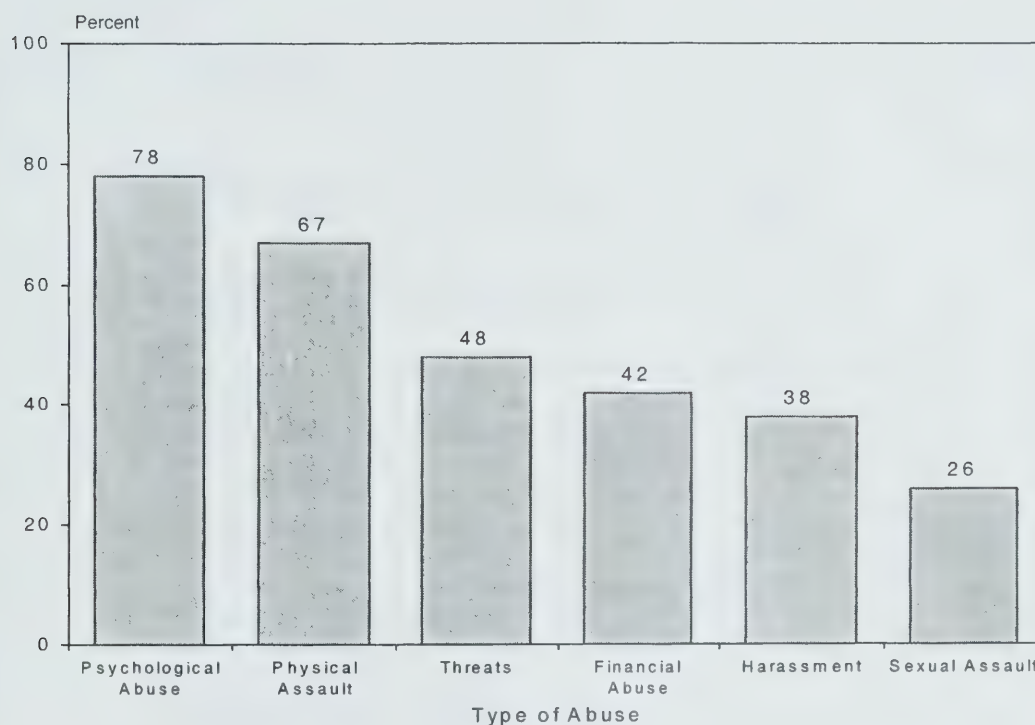


Source: Transition Home Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.  
For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol.19, No.6, "Canada's shelters for abused women."

- On April 20, 1998, there were 470 shelters for abused women across Canada. Of these, only 18 existed prior to 1975 and 57 began operations between 1975 and 1979.
- The largest period of growth came in the 1980's as the issues of violence against women and family violence gained attention at all levels of government.
- Much of the growth between 1989 and 1998 was due to the development of shelters in Aboriginal communities and in rural areas. In 1998, 46% of shelters served rural areas (and may also have served urban/suburban areas) and 29% provided services to reserves.

Figure 7.2

## Women in Shelters by Type of Abuse, April 20, 1998



Note: Figures do not add to 100% due to multiple responses.

Source: Transition Home Survey, 1997-1998, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada.

For more information, see Juristat (catalogue no. 85-002) Vol. 19, No.6, "Canada's shelters for abused women."

- In a snapshot taken on April 20, 1998, the 422 shelters that provided data had 6,115 residents: 2,918 women and 3,197 accompanying children. Nearly eighty percent of the women and children living in shelters that day were there to escape abuse. These women were escaping from psychological abuse (78%), physical assault (67%), threats (48%), and sexual assault (26%).
- Non-abuse admissions for both women and children generally resulted from housing problems (almost three-quarters of those women admitted for reasons unrelated to abuse).



## Appendix A

### Historical List of CCJS Publications

(see page 101 on how to order)

<u>Catalogue No.</u>	<u>Publication</u>
<b>1999-2000</b>	
84-224-XPE	Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile 1999 Internet: Free ( <a href="http://www.statcan.ca">www.statcan.ca</a> ); Print on demand: \$25
85-546-XIE	Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 1997-98 Internet: \$26; Print on demand: \$53
85-548-XIE	Organized Crime Activity in Canada: Results of a «Pilot» Survey of 16 Police Services Internet: \$26; Print on demand: \$52
85-545-XIE	Alternative Measures in Canada - 1998 Internet: \$30; Print on demand: \$40
85F0015XIE	Legal Aid Resources and Caseload Statistics, 1997-98 Internet: \$20; Print on demand: \$43
85-211-XIE	Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1997-98 Internet: \$28; Print on demand: \$59
<b>1997-98</b>	
85-223-XPE	Crime and Police Resources in Canadian Municipalities, 1997 Paper: Canada \$32; Outside Canada : US \$30 Internet: Canada \$24; Outside Canada : US \$24
85-544-XPE	A Profile of Youth Justice in Canada Internet: Canada \$30; Outside Canada : US \$30
85-205-XPE/F	Canadian Crime Statistics 1997 Paper: Canada \$42; Outside Canada US\$42 Internet: Canada \$32; Outside Canada US\$32
85-222-XIE	Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults & Young Offenders, 97-98 Internet: Canada \$29; Outside Canada : US \$29 Print on demand: Canada: \$59; Outside Canada : US \$59
85F0015XPB	Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 1996-97 Canada: paper \$33; microfiche \$26; Outside Canada paper US \$33; microfiche US \$26
85-224-XPE/I	Family Violence in Canada : A Statistical Profile, 1998 Canada – Paper \$25; / Outside Canada - Paper \$US 25 / Free on Internet



85-522-XMB	Youth Court Statistics 1996-97 Canada – Paper \$37; Microfiche \$27 / Outside Canada Paper \$US 37 Microfiche \$US 27
85-211-XME	Adult Correctional Services in Canada, 1996-97 Paper/Microfiche: Canada: \$40; Outside Canada: US \$40
85F0018PE	A Graphical Overview of Crime and the Administration of Justice in Canada, 1996 Paper: Canada - \$35; Outside Canada – US\$35
85F0019XPE	Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada – 1996 and 1997 Canada: \$31; Outside Canada: US \$31
85-223-XPE	Crime and Police Resources in Canadian Municipalities, 1996 Canada: \$32; Outside Canada: US\$32
85-205-XPE	Canadian Crime Statistics 1996 Canada: \$42; Outside Canada: US\$42
85-217-XDB	Legal Aid in Canada: Description of Operations - 1997 Canada: \$37; Outside Canada : US \$37 Electronic version only
85-522-XPB	Youth Court Statistics 1995-96 Paper: Canada: \$37., Outside Canada US\$37 Microfiche : Canada: \$27; Outside Canada US\$27
85-222-XPB	Corrections Key Indicator Report for Adults and Young Offenders Microfiche: Canada: \$ 37, Outside Canada US\$37 Paper: Canada: \$ 39, Outside Canada US\$39.
85-510	National Directory of Courts in Canada, August 1997 Canada: \$30, U.S.: Outside Canada US\$30
85-542-XPE	An Overview of the Differences between Police-Reported and Victim-Reported Crime, 1997 Canada: \$5; Outside Canada US \$5
85F0015XPB	Legal Aid in Canada: Resource and Caseload Statistics 1995-96 Canada: \$33; Outside Canada US \$33
85-217-XDB	Legal Aid in Canada: Description of Operations - March 1996 Canada: \$37; Outside Canada : US \$37 Electronic version only
<b>1996-97</b>	
85-211-XPB	Adult Correctional Services in Canada 1995-96 Canada: \$35; Outside Canada: US\$35
85-513-XPE	Sentencing in Adult Provincial Courts: Study of Nine Jurisdictions 1993 & 1994 Canada: \$35.00; Outside Canada: US \$35
85F0016XPB	Selected Police Administration Characteristics of Municipal Police Departments 1995 Canada: \$30.00; U.S.: US\$36.00; Other countries: US\$42.00

85F0019XPE	Police Personnel and Expenditures in Canada 1995 and 1996 Canada: \$30.00; U.S.: US\$36.00; Other countries: US\$42.00
uncatalogued	Police Reported Crime Data in Canadian Municipalities Canada: \$31.00; U.S.: US\$37.00; Other countries: US\$43.00
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85-402-XPE	Prosecutions Resources, Expenditures and Personnel 1994-95 Microfiche: Canada: \$ 25.00, U.S.: US\$30.00, Other countries: US\$35.00 Paper: Canada: \$ 30.00, U.S.: US\$36.00, Other countries: US\$42.00
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## Glossary of Terms

**Absolute or conditional discharge:** Where an accused pleads guilty to or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum punishment prescribed by law or is punishable by imprisonment for 14 years or life, the court may, instead of convicting the accused, direct that the accused be discharged absolutely or upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. Although there must be a determination of guilt before a discharge may be imposed, the recipient of a discharge is shielded from the stigmatizing consequences of a criminal record.

**Acquittal:** The release or judicial discharge from an accusation of suspicion of guilt. An individual is acquitted by a court either when a verdict of not guilty has been rendered at the close of a trial or when an appellate court decision has absolved him or her of the charges that were the bases of the action.

**Accused:** A person who has been identified by police as an offender in an incident and against whom a charge may be laid in connection with that incident. Does not include suspects.

**Admissions:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Admissions are the number of persons entering a correctional facility in a given time period. The Adult Corrections Survey collects the following information on those admitted to custody: sentence disposition/length; age and sex of the offender; ethnicity of the offender (i.e. native/non-native); and, offence for which the offender was convicted.

**Adults:** Adults consist of all persons 18 years of age and over. As opposed to youths, the target group here falls under the delegation of the adult justice system.

**Alternative measures:** Actions other than judicial proceedings used to deal with a young person alleged to have committed an offence. These measures are not the responsibility of the police service but rather specific programs developed pursuant to section 4 of the *Young Offenders Act*. Young persons participating in Alternative Measures may or may not have been charged by police. The existence of such programs is one factor among many that are likely to explain the divergence between UCR and Courts data. In addition, youths may be diverted from the court system with a referral to an informal diversion program sponsored by the police service. These youths are not charged for the offence.

**Appearance (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A court event recorded by the type of hearing for an accused appearing in court in relation to one or more charges, where all charges were first presented in the same court on the same date.

**Average counts:** An indicator of the utilization of correctional facilities. Counts describe the number of inmates in the institutions at a given instant and provide the average daily population in correctional institutions. The only other data collected by the Adult Corrections Survey in conjunction with the counts are the status of the inmates (remand/sentenced).

**Case (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** An accused person or corporation having one or more charges where the charges are first presented in the same court on the same date. Charges are linked to a case on the basis of court location, accused identifier and date of first court appearance.

**Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA):** An urbanized core with at least 100,000 population.

**Cleared by charge:** When a police investigation leads to the identification of at least one suspect, an "information" is laid against that person (i.e., the person is formally charged with at least one offence). From a statistical point of view, the laying of an information means that at least one actual incident can be "cleared by charge". An incident can be cleared by charge even if the police have not apprehended the accused person, provided that person has been identified and there is sufficient evidence to lay a charge.

**Conditional release:** The planned and gradual release of inmates into the community through release mechanisms such as day parole, full parole, temporary absences, and statutory release.

**Constant Dollars:** Dollar amounts calculated on a one-year base which adjusts for inflation making the yearly amount directly comparable.

**Crime Rate:** Refers to total police-reported Criminal Code actual incidents, excluding traffic. All crime rates are based on 100,000 population unless otherwise stated.

**Criminal Code Incidents:** An accumulation of violent, property and other criminal code incidents (e.g. arson, prostitution, mischief).

**Criminal Code Traffic incidents:** These incidents involve offences such as impaired driving, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, and failing to stop or remain at the scene of an accident. Incidents related to impaired driving account for over one-half of the incidents in this category.

**Drug incidents:** These incidents involve offences under the federal *Food and Drugs Act* and the *Narcotic Control Act*. These offences comprise possession, trafficking, importation or cultivation of various illicit, controlled and restricted drugs.

**Elapsed Time From First Appearance to Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** The time taken to dispose of all charges for a case.

**Federal correctional facility:** Correctional facilities for adult offenders run by the Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) which is part of the federal Ministry of the Solicitor General. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment of two years or more are the responsibility of CSC and are housed in federal correctional facilities. Federally sentenced offenders are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Homicide:** Homicide incidents include first and second degree murder, manslaughter and infanticide.

**Median:** The median refers to the middle value when data are ranged in order of magnitude.

**Mischief - Bill C-18:** Bill C-18 changed the way mischief offences are categorized. Before 1986, mischief offences were distinguished between damage to public property and damage to private property. Since the amendment, mischief has been categorized according to the value of property damage: mischief with property damage over \$1,000, and mischief with property damage \$1000 and under. In 1994, Bill C-42 was proclaimed raising the property damage (mischief) to \$5,000.



**Most Serious Disposition (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that a case contains more than one charge. Dispositions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: found guilty as charged or guilty of a lesser or included offence; committed for trial in Superior Court; other (acquitted on account of insanity, waived in/out of province or territory, other); stay of proceedings; acquitted, withdrawn, dismissed, discharged at preliminary hearing; unknown.

**Most Serious Sentence (Adult Criminal Court Survey):** A rule that applies in the event that more than one sentence is associated with a charge or the most serious conviction for a case. Sentences are ordered from most to least serious as follows: prison; probation; fine; restitution/compensation; other (absolute discharge, conditional discharge, suspended sentence; payment of legal costs, other suspension of driver's license).

**Most Significant Charge (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious charge from the perspective of the final outcome of the case upon adjudication or disposition. Where a person or case has only one charge, it is defined as the most significant. Where more than one charge is linked to a person or case, three criteria are used to select one charge as the most significant: (1) the decision of the court; (2) the nature of the offence; (3) the disposition of the charge. Decisions are ordered from most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed. Where two or more charges have the highest priority decision, the charge with the most serious offence is selected as the most significant. Violent charges are given first priority in the selection process, followed by drug and narcotic offences, property offences, other Criminal Code offences, offences under the Young Offenders Act, and other federal statute offences. Offences are prioritized within these offence categories. Where two or more charges are tied at this level, the charge with the most significant disposition is selected.

**Most Significant Decision (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious decision rendered for a person or case. Decisions are ordered from the most to least serious as follows: transfer to adult court; guilty; other decision (not fit to stand trial); stay of proceedings, charges withdrawn, or transfer to other jurisdiction; not guilty or charges dismissed.

**Most Significant Disposition (Youth Court Survey):** The most serious disposition for a person or case. The seriousness of the disposition is determined by the effect it has on the young person. Dispositions are ordered from the most to the least serious as follows: secure custody; detention for treatment; open custody; probation; fine; compensation; pay purchaser; compensation in kind; community service order; restitution; prohibition, seizure or forfeiture; other disposition; absolute discharge. If the disposition with the highest priority is a fine, compensate or pay purchaser, and there is a combination of these, the disposition with the largest dollar value is selected as the most significant. In the event that multiple charges result in multiple custody orders, the highest priority is assigned to the longest custody order. The same situation applies in the case of multiple probation orders.

**Other Criminal Code incidents:** These incidents involve the remaining *Criminal Code* offences that are not classified as violent or property (excluding traffic offences). Examples are mischief, bail violations, disturbing the peace, arson, prostitution and offensive weapons.

**Open custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Open custody facilities closely monitor the actions and whereabouts of young offenders, but the residents are allowed to leave the facility for reasons such as attending school. Group homes are an example of an open custody facility.

**Other Federal Statute offences:** These incidents include violations under federal statutes other than the *Criminal Code*, the *Narcotics Control Act* and the *Food and Drug Act*. About one-half of the incidents in this category fall under the *Canada Shipping Act*, the *Immigration Act*, the *Customs Act*, the *Excise Act*, and the *Bankruptcy Act*.

**Persons charged:** The Uniform Crime Reporting Survey(UCR) records the number of persons charged in association with cleared incidents. For incidents cleared, the UCR survey collects the number of adults charged (male and female) as well as the number of youths charged (male and female). The "persons charged" category includes the number of people charged or recommended for charges by police, *not* the number of charges laid or recommended against those people.

**Probation:** Probation orders are dispositions imposed by the Court that are a non-custodial sentence. They are the release of an offender into the community under the supervision of a probation officer. The release is conditional on the offender acting in a manner stipulated by his or her probation officer.

**Property incidents:** These incidents involve unlawful acts with the intent of gaining property but do not involve the use or threat of violence against an individual. Theft, breaking and entering, fraud and possession of stolen goods are examples of property crimes.

**Provincial/territorial correctional facility:** Correctional facilities that are run by the provincial or territorial correctional services. Offenders who are sentenced to an aggregate term of imprisonment which is less than two years are the exclusive responsibility of provincial/territorial correctional services and are housed in provincial/territorial correctional facilities. Federal offenders sentenced to two years or more are first admitted to provincial correctional facilities to allow the offender to exercise their right to appeal (normally takes place within 30 days). Federally sentenced offenders who waive their right are then transferred to a federal correctional facility (penitentiary).

**Rate per 100,000 population:** "Rate per 100,000 population" refers to the total number of incidents divided by the total population and multiplied by 100,000. A "rate" is an approximation of the relative risk of being victimized by a criminal act. Rates may be calculated per other standard populations. For instance, the General Social Survey calculates criminal victimization incidents per 1,000 population.

**Remand:** Typically, a person is remanded into custody pending the arrangement of Judicial Interim Release, or to ensure that the accused appears in court, or to protect society from the accused.

**Reported incidents:** When a crime is reported to the police by a citizen, the incident is recorded as a "reported" incident. Police then conduct a preliminary investigation to determine the validity of the report. In addition, "reported" incidents include those which are uncovered by the police themselves.

**Restitution/compensation:** The act of paying the crime victim for any loss, damage or injury through monetary payment or through the performance of specified services for the victim.

**Secure custody:** Custodial facilities for young offenders may be designed as either "open" or "secure". Secure custody facilities are often called Youth Detention Centres and the premises are secured and the movement of young offenders is strictly monitored.

**Stay of proceedings:** A halt by the Crown in the judicial proceedings where the court will not take further action until the occurrence of some event. A stay can be temporary or permanent. The effect is to suspend the proceedings rather than to terminate them altogether

**Suspended sentence:** Where an accused pleads guilty or is found guilty of an offence, other than one which carries a minimum sentence or is punishable by 14 years or life imprisonment, a sentencing court may suspend the passing of sentence and direct that the offender be released upon the conditions prescribed in a probation order. This sentencing option allows the court to later impose any sentence that could have been imposed if the passing of sentence had not been suspended, a decision which may be taken if the offender violates his/her probation order.

**Violent incidents:** These incidents, as collected by the Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, involve offences that may result in physical injury to a person. These include homicide, attempted murder, various forms of sexual and non-sexual assault, robbery and abduction. Traffic incidents that result in death or bodily harm are included under *Criminal Code* traffic incidents.

**Young Offenders Act (YOA):** The YOA came into effect in 1984, replacing the Juvenile Delinquents Act (JDA). At that time, 12 became the minimum age requirement for criminal responsibility under the YOA. However, it was not until 1985 that the maximum age of 17 (up to the 18th birthday) was established in all provinces and territories.

**Youths:** Youths, as defined in this publication, refer to those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). This definition applies to the target group that falls under the delegation of the *Young Offenders Act* (YOA). In this publication, rates of accused youths are represented only by those aged 12 to 17 (inclusive). The number of YOA incidents reported to police are included in the category "Other federal statute offences".





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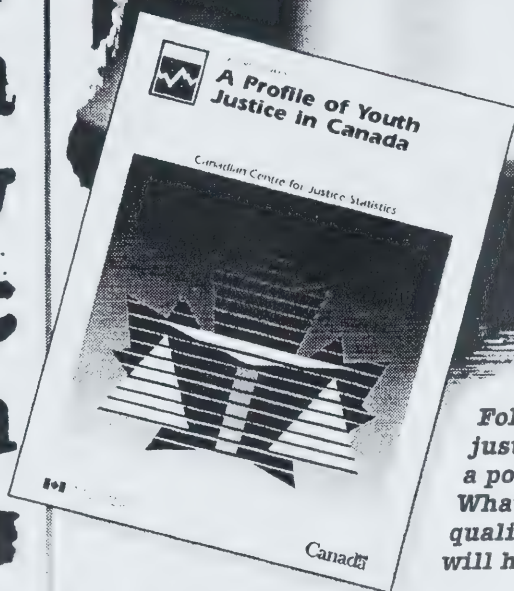
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